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No. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL,
Hongkong, 13th April, 1891.



BY APPOINTMENT.

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We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS,
whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Emplies when received in good order.

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GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

MARRIAGE.
At Shanghai, on the 25th April, at the British Consulate-General, and afterwards at the Union Church, by Rev. T. R. Stevens, THOMAS EDWIN TREMBLAN to AMY ELIZA SAYLE.

DEATH.
At Hankow, on the 21st April, WILLIAM FORBES second son of late Dr. Hugh Sharp, of Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland; aged 45 years.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

THE SUNDAY LABOUR AND GAMBLING QUESTIONS.

The meeting of the Legislative Council this forenoon was marked by the consideration of measures which, all being well, will deal severe blows at two important, if dissimilar, vested interests—the ship-owners' and the gambling-house keepers'. The former class, through their representatives in the Chamber of Commerce, have long and successfully opposed the claims of their European employers to have Sunday rest when in port here, and after the discouraging and Jesuitical attitude adopted by Mr. F. FLEMING, then administering the Government, when approached by a deputation of officers on the subject last November, it was scarcely to be expected that such a complete concession could have been granted as is proposed in the Bill which was to-day read a first time. By this "Sunday Cargo-working Ordinance" practically the whole of the Harbor is controlled, and, except in cases where the exceptional circumstances make it worth while paying \$150 for the privilege, the clank of the steam-whistle will be heard no more on board vessels within our waters on Sundays, on pain of a fine not exceeding \$1,000. We have so long and consistently advocated the adoption of such a measure that we shall be pardoned for a little plain-speaking to both officers and owners. At the conference between the deputation from the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association and the Chamber of Commerce in October last, and at again the interview with the Acting Governor the following month,

there was a good deal too much twaddle about "moral slavery," yearning for liberty to attend Divine service, and so on. The great want was for a day to recreate, for officers and men to lie back and forget about bills of lading, for once, and to associate with their friends in the way other men do. On the other hand the Chamber of Commerce people, invested as they were (the phrase is Captain ASHTON'S) with heathenish surroundings, talked the most arrant rubbish imaginable when they pretended that to lay the ships up on Sunday would knock the bottom out of all local trade, and reduce the Colony to ruin, not to speak of the cheek of the officers in ever thinking of such a thing. It was a case of British interests, and nothing better. Sir G. W. DIX Vaux has not lost his grip of things so entirely as to ignore this, and he has solved the question to-day in a crisp little Ordinance that the Chamber of Commerce ought to have framed and hung up in their consulting-room at the City Hall.

With respect to the latest crusade against the gambling-house keepers there is not much to be said that is new, save and except as to the brief expression of opinion from his Excellency in respect to the Totalisator. Governor DIX Vaux is not very consistent in some things—he has not been in respect to this gambling question—but he got right home when he declared that the Totalisator could not be countenanced at any future race-meetings, any more—in fact less than—the establishment of a *potiss* shanty in the paddock. He said what we have repeatedly asserted in these columns, and he spoke just about as feelingly. Whilst expunging a clause which would have practically justified a raid on any club or private house where the limit on a quiet game was anything over a dollar, he showed an unmistakable determination to make no race distinctions in suppressing this all-pervading vice of gambling, and we rather fancy that one or two ears at that same Council-board must have tingled a trifle when his Excellency was painfully expressing his rather pronounced sentiments on the subject. There will be a valuable Totalisator, "whose owner is giving up business," for sale when this Bill becomes law, and the proceedings at the next meeting of that sadly degenerate body which calls itself the Hongkong Jockey Club, and arrogates to itself more power than a Council of Ten, will be very interesting. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that no new bill was required to exterminate the totalisator; the existing law is quite sufficient to meet all requirements, but on our annual gala days the police have discreetly been blind to all sorts of gambling, in which Chinese and foreigners were equally implicated, and we are not aware that any very serious consequences have ever resulted from this special indulgence. It is possible to have too much repressive legislation, and we are rather inclined to the opinion that the limit has been greatly exceeded in this new Hongkong Gambling Ordinance.

TELEGRAMS.

PORTUGUESE OUTRAGES IN AFRICA.
LONDON, April 28th.

The Consul at Delagoa cables that Messrs. Colquhoun, Pawley and the officers of the Chartered British African Company were brutally assaulted by Portuguese. British lives unsafe.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The British cruisers *Mercury*, *Lander*, and *Severn* sailed hence for Amoy this morning.

Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co., agents for the Canadian-Pacific Line, inform us that the steamer *Bellevue* left Shanghai for this port yesterday at 3 p.m., and is due to-morrow.

The *Rockham* Echo says that heavy rain has caused interruption to the picking of the new tea. The leaf is said to be nice and succulent and to show every prospect of a fine first crop.

A FAIRLY large audience patronised the Assault-at-arms given by the Lorne Athletic Club at the City Hall last evening. The various items of the programme were cleverly performed and merited the constant plaudits given to the performers.

ACCORDING to a native paper the tea season at Hankow will open shortly. It is predicted that this year's crop will be of an exceptionally fine quality, as the weather has been most favourable all along. The picking of the leaf at Ningchow this year has been earlier than usual. The market will be ready for business either at the end of this Chinese month or the beginning of the next.

ANOTHER ear-ripping snatching case occurred yesterday afternoon. A widow, whilst passing the shop of Messrs. Gaupp & Co., was attacked from behind and had her ornaments stolen. She turned round quickly and saw the defendant caught by P.C. Hanson. The youth denied the charge, but Mr. Wise sent him to goal for six months' imprisonment and ordered him to receive two whippings of twelve strokes each during the time, remarking that cases of snatching were becoming too common and must be put down.

THE *Empress of India's* maiden trip across the North Pacific from Yokohama to Vancouver is the fastest thing in the way of steaming on the bosom of the Pacific Ocean that has yet been recorded. She left Yokohama at 4 p.m. on the 17th instant, with a full cargo and upwards of 150 first-class passengers, and arrived at Vancouver during the forenoon of the 28th idem, i.e. in 10 days and a few hours. The next best record is the voyage of the *Pacific Mail Company's* *Princess Alice* from Yokohama to Vancouver, when she made the same trip in 12 days 14 hours, in August last.

DURING a religious *Asita* at Laoag, in the North Ilocos province of the Philippines, on the 21st inst., a fire broke out in a temporary theatre in which were some eight hundred natives. Nearly fifty of them—mostly children—were either crushed, suffocated, or burnt to death.

LAST night the Electric Light Company added fourteen new lights to their street illuminations, namely, four at the Cricket Ground, four at Wanchai Market, four in the vicinity of Government House, and two on the Praya—in addition to their other lights in those districts. A trial of the new lights was made during the afternoon and when, at 6.30 p.m., the electric current was sent through the Company's circuits the new lamps shed a steady brilliant light throughout the entire night. We trust that the Electric Light Company are about to put up some of the local cost steamship companies' vessels with the new illuminant, as also some of the hotels and merchants' bongs.

It is proposed to extend the Kowloon Railway to Shan-hai-kwan by the route of Koo-ye and Ling-si, from Shan-hai-kwan it will be still extended to Shek-king, from hence onward to Kihin. During the 2nd moon, Taotai Li Shan Ching sent deputies from Tientsin to take the survey. All properties along the route, which the new railroad is to take, will be bought at reasonable prices from their present owners. Notices to that effect have already been issued by the Railroad Company in conjunction with the local authorities. The Taotai Li left in person for an inspection of the route on the 9th of this month. More developments, says the native papers, are expected in the coming Chinese 4th moon.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held this morning. There were present: H. E. the Governor, Sir G. W. de Vaux; Mr. W. M. Deane, C.M.G., (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. W. Goodman (Attorney-General); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General); Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Messrs. P. Ryrie, T. H. Whitehead, Ho Kai, and J. J. Kerwick, (unofficial members), and Mr. A. M. Thomson, Clerk of Councils.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE REPLY TO MR. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency—I had prepared for this Council a speech on the condition and prospects of the colony, but as the very urgent representation of the medical authorities has compelled me to the belief that I was not in position to bear the strain of delivering it I sent it yesterday to the Press, and a copy of it is laid on the table.

REPORTS, &c.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the table a report on the operations of the Public Works for 1890; a despatch from the Secretary of State with reference to the Military Contribution in reply to the Memorial on behalf of the Council sent in December last; the Harbour Master's report for 1890; the returns of superior and subordinate Courts for 1890; and the returns of births and deaths in the Colony for the same year.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISRESPECTFUL.

Mr. Ryrie, pursuant to notice, asked his Excellency "if when he asked me at the meeting of Council on 25th March last if the protest I then laid on the table, was a respectful protest, he meant to imply that it was likely to present, or the unofficial members to consider, a protest that was not perfectly respectful?" His Excellency—One of the rules of this Council is that any protest must be couched in respectful terms; it was therefore impossible for me to accept it until I knew that it was in respectful terms, not that I meant to imply by any means that it was likely to be in any but respectful terms, but I think I had every reason to believe from the tone, members' demeanour at the time that he did not think so either.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Mr. Ryrie—My next question is—Will the hon. the Colonial Treasurer state if the arrears of the Military Contribution for the year 1890, payment of which was authorized by this Council on the 19th March last, has been paid, and if paid, on what date, or dates, it, or any portion of it, was paid, and if so, upon what authority.

His Excellency—I will answer the question myself. The equivalent to £30,000 was paid on my warrant into the military chest. On the 24th February a telegram was received from the Secretary of State requesting immediate payment of the money; he had then had before him the reasons against the vote of this money that were urged the passing of the Estimates for 1891 on; this telegram therefore evidently conveyed the deliberate decision of her Majesty's Government. After myself giving the matter my best attention by the light thrown on it in the Secretary of State's despatches and elsewhere, and after arriving at the conviction—which every day tends to strengthen—that the payment was a right one, however unfortunate the circumstances under which the demand was made, it would, under ordinary circumstances, have been my duty to at once summon a meeting of Council for the purpose of passing it, but for reasons which are well-known I was not then in a condition to hold a meeting of Council at all, and, feeling that I ought not to leave to others the invidious task, I ordered its immediate payment. I did so entirely on my own responsibility.

A CATCHING.

Mr. Whitehead, pursuant to notice, put the following questions—

1. Will the Government lay on the table a report on the present state of the Tyam Reservoir and state—

(a) the quantity of water in the Reservoir on 1st August last;

(b) the quantity delivered daily through the tunnel;

(c) the estimated flow into the Reservoir between 1st August last and now;

(d) the quantity now left in the Reservoir;

(e) the cause of the difference, if any, between the quantity passed out of the Reservoir as shown by its contents then and now, including estimated flow into it, and the quantity delivered through the tunnel.

2. Is there a leak in the Tyam Reservoir dam, if so what is the nature of the leak, and if there is leakage, what is the estimated cost of making the Reservoir watertight?

3. Presuming that the Reservoir was full what is the estimated quantity of water which would be lost per diem by the leakage if there be any.

4. Will the Government lay on the table a complete statement of the cost to date of the Tyam Reservoir and works connected therewith, including the Service Reservoir; also a statement of the cost of the works to date for the distribution of the Tyam Water, and the estimated further sum required to complete the distribution works.

5. Will the Government state the original estimated cost of the Tyam Reservoir and Works connected therewith including the Service Reservoir; and the original estimated cost of the works for the distribution of the Tyam Water.

6. Does the Government Notification No. 139 of 28th March last refer to Covenants to Lease granted before the year 1875 or to leases of

agreements for Leases issued subsequent to that date.

7. Will the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer lay on the table a statement of—

(1) The particulars of the Expenditure under the head of Miscellaneous Services in the Statement of Receipts and Payments for 1890.

(2) The assessed taxes refunded for void or empty houses in the years 1888, 1889, and 1890.

(3) The assessed taxes for first quarter of 1889, of 1890, and of 1891, and the taxes refunded for void or empty houses in each of these quarters.

8. Will the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer give the Council some information regarding the various items aggregating Millions of Dollars under the head of Receipts and Payments in the Statement dated 6th inst. and laid before the Council on 10th idem; and further—

An explanation as to the decrease in Expenditure against the name of the Post Master General as appears in said Statement under the heads of Establishments and Services exclusive of Establishments.

9. If the full Military Contribution of £40,000 for 1890 had been paid on or before 31st December last would there not have been a deficiency in revenue as compared with actual Expenditure in 1890, and if so, how much would have been the deficiency.

10. Will the Government lay upon the table the papers and Correspondence relating to the closing of the thoroughfare leading from Arsenal Street Eastward at the Praya, now belated to carriage traffic since November last to the great inconvenience of the public, and state when there is any probability of the road being again opened to traffic.

11. Has the attention of the Government been called to the leading article in the *Daily Press* of the 17th March and *China Mail* of the 20th inst. referring to the unsatisfactory state of Queen's Road Central, and will the Honorable the Surveyor General state what steps are being taken to put it in proper order.

12. Have the Government issued any instructions recently for the more stringent enforcement of the Opium Ordinance 1887 and for the more frequent examination of Opium Godowns.

If such instructions have been issued has it been done on the application of a complaint of the Chinese Government or of the Officers of that Government.

13. With reference to His Excellency The Governor's statement in Council on 18th December, 1889, viz.: "I was given to understand last year that, in consideration of our having undertaken the work of the Cap. Rock Light, the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs would undertake the Lighthouse on Wai-lan," will the Government state whether the Chinese Government have commenced the erection of the new Cap. Rock Lighthouse on Wai-lan, and if not when operations are likely to be commenced.

The Acting Colonial Secretary in reply to those questions calling for reports laid them on the table. With regard to the question as to closing the thoroughfare leading from Arsenal Street, he continued, I am directed to state that the road will probably be open in about a month, but his Excellency is not in a position to lay on the table further details, as it is possible that legal proceedings may eventually arise. The delay has arisen from the necessity of communicating with the executors of a deceased person, who reside in England. In answer to question 11, he substituted, with Sir John Cooke's approval, to substitute concrete blocks for granite footings, the object being to add to the stability of the work and accelerate its completion. In answer to the next question, there is no reason to believe that the estimate will be exceeded. With respect to the inquiry as to the Tyam dam, his Excellency informed that there is a slight percolation of the water through the dam, but more than might be expected from a dam of its height. It is decreasing yearly through the deposits left by the water, and will probably be stopped in a short time without involving any expenditure of money. As regards the quantity of water lost by leakage his Excellency is informed that none is so lost, being conveyed by the outside channels directly to the tunnel. With respect to the inquiry as to the cost of the Tyam Reservoir, &c., his Excellency is informed that the estimated cost of the reservoir and works, not including mains, was \$300,000, and the original estimated cost of the works of distribution \$200,000. With regard to the question concerning the Notification as to defaulting purchasers of Crown lands, I am instructed by his Excellency to state that the Notification refers to people buying land and not fulfilling the terms of their leases. Each case will be dealt with on its merits, irrespective of the time of purchase. With regard to question 8, the answer is a very long one, and I think it is better to lay it on the table—it is a mass of figures.

His Excellency—I think it will serve the whole purpose if I lay it on the table and printed, unless there is any objection.

Mr. Whitehead—None.

The Acting Colonial Secretary—With reference to the question re the Military Contribution I have to inform the hon. member that if the full contribution of £40,000 for 1890 had been paid before the 31st December last there would have been a deficiency in revenue of £40,000, the actual expenditure in 1890, but the actual expenditure in 1890 includes the cost of extraordinary public works that would have been set off against accumulative advances on premia on land sales. Putting this on one side there would have been no deficiency in revenue. As to the inquiry respecting the state of the roads, the Surveyor-General states that he has inspected the roads, and found them in good condition considering the operations of the Water and Drainage department. As soon as the sewers and water mains are completed the road will be re-laid. If any member will kindly point out any spot to the defects of which reference has been made the Surveyor-General will do his best to have them remedied. With reference to the question on the Opium Ordinance the Superintendent of the Imports and Exports was instructed last year that it was part of his duty under that Ordinance to make surprise visits to opium stores. The reply to the rest of the question is in the negative. As regards the query as to Wai-lan Light I have to state that in September last the Acting Colonial Secretary was directed to write to the Commissioner of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, and on the 2nd of October received a reply stating that by order of the Inspector-General the Engineer-in-Chief and Coast Inspector had visited Wai-lan with a view to preparing plans and specifications for the erection of a lighthouse on the spot.

THE SUNDAY LABOUR QUESTION SETTLED.

The Attorney-General—I have to ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to restrict the loading and unloading of cargo on Sunday in certain waters of the colony" for its first reading. I am sorry that owing to the pressure of other business I have not the advantage of having this measure gone through the Legislative Council, and by his Excellency and it is possible that there will be some modifications necessary. However, it will be published in the *Gazette*, as usual, after its first reading, which I move.

The Acting Colonial Secretary seconded.

His Excellency—I may just say, without going very much into the subject, that the ventilation which this subject has received during the last two years has led me to the conviction that a measure restricting the loading

and unloading of cargo on Sunday will have no appreciable effect on the trade of the port. Consequently I have decided, before I leave, to remedy the injustice to a deserving class of men. I trust that I shall be able to go through the draft so that it can be published in the *Gazette* on Saturday.

THE GAMBLING BILL.

The Council went into Committee on this Bill. His Excellency—I wish to make quite clear my position in this matter. You are all aware that my faith in any Ordinance of this kind is not great; but not only the Secretary of State but I believe a very considerable majority in a very large portion of public feeling in the Colony is in favour of such an Ordinance. I am, at least certain that it will be—I assume that it is—the only law short of licensing gambling houses, which I believe to be really the best way of restricting gambling, and the only law that I can conceive that has the least prospect of doing any good. It is a stringent law, but stringency is not to prevent it from being a mere sham. While passing a law of this kind the restriction of gambling among Chinese it is an opinion to be in the highest degree unjust if we were to permit such proceedings as totalisators at races. That in my opinion has all the objections of the licensing of gambling houses without the advantage a licensed gambling house would have in restricting a very large amount of gambling to a narrow space and certain hours. But the totalisator is, I consider, very much more injurious than ordinary betting. Ordinary betting of course cannot be suppressed, it is an impossibility, but the totalisator is infinitely worse than betting, on account of its extreme ease. In the case of betting people often have a difficulty because they cannot get people to bet with them, and moreover when they do, sometimes they do not get paid. The totalisator, however, on account of its extreme ease, if any gambling is to be stopped, is decidedly worse, or at least decidedly as bad, as any other form of gambling. I have known from personal experience that it caused people to gamble on it who would not think of it otherwise. And I think it would be gross injustice to have to lay this Council open to the charge of very gross partiality, to stop Chinese gambling and not to stop that; consequently I have specially included a clause so that when people advocate putting down gambling they may know what it means themselves.

The Bill was then considered in Committee. Section 4, which defined as a common gaming house "any place in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for" was amended by his Excellency, who said it would be impossible to include such a wide definition.

Some discussion ensued on the manner of introducing amendments.

The Attorney-General said the word "excessive" was introduced in consequence of a judgment of Mr. Justice Field which dealt with that very point—he said that Sir Charles Russell, in arguing a case before him, said that nobody could tell what "excessive" was. The judgment (read) left it to the judge to decide; what was a large sum to one man might be very small to another. The Attorney-General thought it was a matter of judgment, and might be decided here similarly by the magistrate, and if the parties were not satisfied it could then go before the Supreme Court, and so they could ascertain what "excessive" meant. That would no doubt be a matter of some difficulty to decide; but he thought it only right that it was not introduced without some consideration.

His Excellency—I am sure no member thought that it was introduced without consideration, but on the other hand I am of opinion that while the word "Ordinance" is carefully drafted, in some respects I see objections. One is to the excessive restriction of freedom. As far as I can read the law, anybody in a private house who chooses to play high frequently might be subject to a visit from the police. I confess that I am not without a certain sympathy with the celebrated gambler who said that he preferred an England free to an England sober. I am not without an analogous feeling with regard to gambling. But though restrictions are necessary to a certain extent I think that including private houses is pushing the matter too far, not to mention the extraordinary difficulties it would put upon the magistrates and judges to say what "excessive" is. Probably they would take extremely different views on the subject, and an irregular reading of the law is likely to be introduced.

After some further unimportant discussion the Bill passed through Committee. On the Council resuming.

Mr. Ryrie said—Some time ago I put a question about the Merchant Shipping Ordinance. It was said at the time that the Ordinance would be amended shortly. Something like a year has now elapsed, and nothing has yet been done. I would like to ask when the new Merchant Shipping Ordinance will be introduced.

This concluded the business before the Council, which adjourned *hinc deinceps*.

OUR SHIPPING STATISTICS.

The Harbour Master's report for 1890 was presented to the Legislative Council at the meeting to-day. Is it stated:—

The Shipping Returns show a marked advancement in the trade of the Colony, and a large amount of Arrivals and Sailings amounting to 131 million tons, the highest figures yet reached, and over a million more than in the previous year. There were 32,132 arrivals, with a tonnage of 6,854,588 tons, and 31,855 departures of 6,823,705 tons, making a grand total of 63,987 vessels, and 13,676,293 tons.

The following statement shows how this amount of shipping is apportioned:—

	1889.	1890.	Increase.
British	5,111	5,111	0
Foreign	27,021	27,021	0
Junks	1,000	1,000	0
Others	1,000	1,000	0
Total	34,132	34,132	0

Grand Total, 131,000,000 tons, 13,676,293 tons, 1,000,000 tons, 1,000,000 tons.

Compared with 1889, there has been a general increase of British tonnage amounting to 440,000 tons, and an increase of foreign tonnage of 365,707 tons. A comparison also with the average of the last three years shows an increase in 1890 of 136 British ships representing 397,499 tons, and of vessels under foreign flags an increase of 307 ships and 224,843 tons.

The general trade as represented by the amount of shipping from and to the various countries does not show on the whole much alteration, though there is a general increase in British bottoms most marked with regard to Cochinchina, Japan, the Philippines and Siam. In the case of foreign vessels, the increase is still greater with Cochinchina and Siam. There is also a considerable revival of the junk trade.

With Great Britain and the Continent of Europe, the amount of trade does not differ materially from 1889, being indeed nearly stationary. There is a slight increase in arrivals under the British flag and a decrease under foreign flags.

As shown in the foregoing tables, the junk trade for 1890 amounted to 3,004,553 tons being an increase over the previous year of 1,968 tons and 203,851 tons. The trade with Macao shows a falling off from 1889, but with the exception that the foreign junk trade has increased. The chief increase in junks, however, is in the local trade

(by which is to be understood the trade between places within the waters of the colony) in which Returns show that it amounted to 850 vessels and 49,103 tons. Compared also with the average of the past three years, the junk trade of 1890 still shows an increase of 11,758 tons, in the foreign trade and 44,045 tons in the local trade.

The subject of the interference of Chinese revenue cruisers with the junk trade of the colony was brought somewhat prominently forward during the past year, and more than one report was made from the out-stations of visits paid by these cruisers or their boats to the junk anchorages on the south side of the Island; also of junks having been stopped and boarded. In one case from the evidence of the junk people and the officer-in-charge of the station, it would seem that the interference took place in Stanley Bay, but in others, the exact positions of the vessels being subject to the conflicting evidence of the interested parties, the question of within or outside of British Waters was not payable. During the greater part of the year a Chinese cruiser has been anchored off Lamma Island.

In September two armed junks were found anchored in a small bay on the south side, just out of sight of Aberdeen; they stated that they were on the look-out for smugglers. Acting under my orders the officer-in-charge at Aberdeen seized them and I had them towed round to Victoria wharf, after taking from them certain flags and other articles to be used for the purpose of future identification, they were released and the matter reported.

I should be glad to see a regular and systematic patrol of the south coast by armed Government vessels established.

3,989 steamers, 125 sailing vessels, and 20,018 junks arrived during the year, giving an average of 88 vessels daily arriving in the Waters of the colony. Of the steamers 68 per cent. were British, and of these 54 per cent. were "Ocean-going," of the Foreigners, 9 per cent. were River craft.

On the 31st December there were 110

No. 8 of 1891, I laid down the general principle that the Colonies, so far as their means allow, should provide the whole cost of their land defence.

It must also not be forgotten that the strength and the cost of the garrison have considerably risen since the contribution of £200,000 a year was fixed in 1863, with the intention of increasing it at the end of five years, an intention which was never carried out. In that year the garrison consisted of 1,000 of all ranks, and its cost was £600,000, whereas the garrison now present in Hongkong, according to the latest returns, is 1,700 of all ranks, and the cost is about one hundred and eighty thousand pounds (£180,000).

5. The estimated revenue of the Colony for 1891 is 2,052,098 dollars, or more than three times the revenue of 1863. In my Despatch of 20th January, 1890, the charge of £400,000 was estimated to amount to 17 per cent. of the revenue of 1888, but owing to the subsequent growth of the revenue and the appreciation in the value of silver, the charge now only represents about 14 per cent. of revenue as against 16 per cent. when the contribution of 1863 was fixed.

6. Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government do not consider that any grounds exist for delaying the payment of the full contribution of £400,000.

7. I take this opportunity of informing you with reference to paragraph 8 of Mr. Fleming's Despatch No. 82 of 1st April, 1890, that it is proposed to raise the Indian Battalion for service at Hongkong from among the Mahomedans of Upper India, and steps are being taken to organise the corps as soon as may be practicable.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
KNUTSON.

SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CHARBONNAGES DU TONKIN.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held this afternoon at the office, Victoria Buildings. There were present—Messrs. Bavier Chausoff, J. J. Kenwick, H. N. Mody, (Directors), A. T. Ross, Shelton Hooper, J. S. Eckel, P. Jordan, W. H. Gaskell, J. B. Coughton, T. E. Davies, S. M. Benjamin, S. I. Danby, S. E. Levy, R. S. Moses, Donaji Nowroji, J. S. Moses and R. B. Joyce (Secretary).

Mr. Kenwick, moved and Mr. Mody seconded that Mr. Bavier Chausoff take the chair, which was agreed to.

The Chairman declared that there were 23 shareholders present, representing 15,411 shares, entitling them to 109 votes. In accordance with French law, Messrs. Kenwick and Mody as the largest shareholders present, were invited to act as scrutineers of these figures. The meeting was then declared open.

The Chairman read the following report:—

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

This time again we could hardly present anything but accounts of expenses and in fact it could scarcely be otherwise if you will consider that we are deeply engaged with the execution of the great works provided for in the charter of the company, and our organisation on which depends to a great extent the future of our company. Since the report which we had the honour of presenting to you at our last ordinary meeting on the 31st of May 1890 these works have taken a very considerable extent and if nothing comes across their regular progress they will soon lead us towards the period of production so ardently desired by all of us and expected by you with a patience which, I hasten to say, has proved a source of strength to us. As a matter of fact, yielding to the numerous requests which have been made to us we might have already proceeded with the sale of our coal, as it was being produced, but, on the other hand the difficulties connected with the sale of coal in Hongkong would have prevented us from making such sales in a continuous way or to a large extent and thus it was certainly proper to wait in patience and to take first of all the necessary steps in order to overcome these difficulties—on the other hand, strong in the feeling of your approval we did not care to put our production on the market before being certain that it was of good quality. This point is now settled and the trials made admit of the hope that our combustible may face a competition with other products. The line of conduct followed so far has therefore been to concentrate all our efforts on the achievement of our works of installation and afterwards to arrive at the places of consumption with regular supplies of a quality able to give satisfaction. We shall no doubt not have to regret it. At the last extraordinary meeting of shareholders of 3rd September 1890 you have authorised the issue of debentures to the extent of 600,000 francs. We have so far proceeded with two issues, both covering the third and last one will take place shortly. These issues of fresh resources, we have been able to extend our mining works, to complete our plant and especially to ensure the means of transporting and embarking our produce. At the head of this programme we placed of course the construction of a railway which will connect the mines with the port of shipping and of a large wharf which will be able to grant access to the entrance of a large tonnage. Having called for offers both from England and France for the supply of the whole railway plant we have been obliged, owing to the terms of delivery, to accept the offers which have been made to us from London, after having obtained from the Governor General his kind assurance that this special plant, so utterly necessary for our future progress, would be allowed to enter duty free. As for our wharf, contracts have been made by us, as well for the supply of the timber required as for the construction itself. All these works are now pushed with increased activity by our technical staff, I have much pleasure in stating it, and as soon as they will be finished we shall be able to commence shipping in a regular manner and to ensure that, we hope, the final success of our enterprise.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Champin to read the following:—

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

As was the case last year the accounts presented to you by the Board of Directors can be nothing but accounts of expenses. Some of these accounts may seem somewhat high to those of you who have not been out to see the considerable works which have been executed by us and have not had the opportunity of conceiving the difficulties arising out of the first working contracts, always very expensive in a new country. However, the report presented to you is perfectly correct and the balance sheet which I have examined carefully are in conformity with the books. While adding gentlemen that the Board of Directors decline as they did last year to take advantage of the chance of the articles of association, granting them an allowance of fr. 50,000, I beg to propose to you to adopt the report and to approve of the accounts.

The Chairman then stated that there was a very long report from Mr. Durand, technical manager, which could be read, unless the meeting considered it sufficient to send it to the newspapers.

On the motion of Mr. Kenwick seconded by Mr. Mody it was decided to send it to the papers.

The Chairman: I have nothing much to add to what has already been said. The works are progressing favourably, and of course participation

have not gone on so quickly as you might have expected and we have had to face very great difficulties in opening up our work, as is always the case in a new country. It is my duty from time to time to go to the spot and investigate what has been done, and I shall be very pleased to reply to any questions put to the chair. If you would like to look at the plans of the mines, they will be in the offices for inspection.

There being no question the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Kenwick seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman announced that in accordance with clause 17 of the Articles of Association two of the directors retired. The lot fell to Mr. Chater and Mr. Kenwick who on the motion of Mr. J. S. Moses seconded by Mr. Rose were re-elected.

Under Article 30 the auditor, M. Champin, retired and on the motion of Mr. Moore seconded by Mr. Eckel, was re-elected.

Mr. Champin then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the honour, saying that he was very thankful the shareholders approved of his conduct. All he could say was that he had done his utmost to deserve it, and should continue working to the best of his ability in order to ensure the welfare of the Company.

The report of M. Durand, which is too long for publication in *extenso*, is to the following effect:—

The exploitation of the Company's property has shown such valuable resources that the preliminary work, installation of plant, etc., had to be on a larger scale than at first intended. This accounts for the delay in achieving practical results. During this year coal will be extracted from the Nagaina mine, and early next year the great wharf and Haton railway will be finished. Production will then develop freely. At the Nagaina mine the upper seams are inferior in quality, the lower promise well, as to quantity and quality. The Nagaina mine gives a total thickness of about 30 meters of coal, and a length of 2000 meters has been pierced in the last seven months, and 2300 in all. The total available tonnage is estimated at 40 millions.

At the Campa, Marguerite, and Haton mines less has been done, but prospects are good. The report also gives long detailed accounts of the progress and future of the work, at the mines, railway and the depot at Hongkong.

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Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 105 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, 228 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue, 104 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per share, buyers.
 China Traders' Insurance Company—\$65 per share, buyers.
 North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
 Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$115 per share, sellers.
 Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
 On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$315 per share, sellers.
 China Fire Insurance Company—\$82 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$100 per cent. premium, buyers.
 Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$33 per share, sellers.
 China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Gas Company—\$131 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Hotel Company—\$120 per share, buyers.
 Hongkong Hotel Co. \$12 per cent. Debentures—\$50.
 Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—40 per cent. discount, sellers.
 Douglas Steamship Company—\$48 per share, sellers.
 China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$198 per share, sellers.
 Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$92 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong Ice Company—\$90 per share, buyers.
 Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share.
 Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$214 per share, buyers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2 per cent. premium, sellers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
 Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
 Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$122 per share, ex. div., sales and buyers.
 The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.
 Punfong and Sangale Doo Samantian Mining Co.—\$2 per share, sellers.
 The Rapid Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.
 Inauris Mining Co., Limited—\$12 per share, buyers.
 The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$79 per share, buyers.
 Tongqua Coal Mining Co.—\$430 per share, buyers.
 The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.
 The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.
 H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$48 per share, ex. div., buyers.
 The Sengai Koyah Planting Co., Limited—\$131 per share, buyers.
 Cruickshank & Co., Limited—\$35 per share, nominal.
 The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
 The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.
 The China-Borneo Co., Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$12 per share, sellers.
 The Green Island Cement Co.—\$17 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6 per share, buyers.
 Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.
 The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$30 per share, sellers.
 The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$8 per share, sellers.
 The Labak Planting Co., Limited—\$25 per share, sellers.
 The Laming Planting Co., Limited—\$7 per share, buyers.
 The Jelabu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.
 The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
 The Shamene Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
 The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$15 per share, buyers.
 The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—\$18 per share, sellers.
 The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—Founders' shares, \$180 per share, sellers.
 The Hongkong Marine, Limited—nominal.
 London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—\$15, sellers.
 The National Bank of China, Ld.—27 per cent. div., sellers.
 The National Bank of China, Ld., Founders' shares—\$400 per share, sellers.

ON LONDON—Bank, T. T. 3/12
 Bank Bills, on demand 3/12
 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/12
 Credits at 4 months' sight 3/12
 Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 3/12
 On Demand 3/12

ON PARIS—
 Bank Bills, on demand 3/4
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 4/4
 On India, T. T. 22 1/2
 On Demand 22 1/2

ON SHANGHAI—
 Bank, T. T. 7 1/2
 Private, 30 days' sight 7 1/2

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.
 MARIE BERG, German bark, 536, L. Hildrichs, 29th April—Singapore 26th March, Timber.
 W. C. L. Co.
 DIAMANTE, British steamer, 514, G. A. Taylor, 30th April—Manila 27th April, General.
 Russell & Co.
 TAIKANG, British steamer, 1,503, W. H. Hogg, 30th April—Shanghai 26th April, General.
 Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 PALOS, American gunboat, 423, Lieut.-Comdr. Joseph Minton, 30th April—Amoy April 25th.
 AUSTRIA, British bark, 1,105, Geo. N. Danks, 30th April—New York 11th Nov., Kerosene Oil—Order.

CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.
 Don Juan, Spanish steamer, for Amoy, &c.
 Tongshan, British steamer, for Swatow, &c.
 Zambezi, British steamer, for Nagasaki, &c.

DEPARTURES.
 April 29, Yuny, American schooner, for Yag.

April 30, Mercury, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Leander, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Severn, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.
 April 30, Ly-ee-moon, German str., for Whampoa.
 April 30, Clyde, British str., for Singapore, &c.
 April 30, Cosmopolis, German str., for Chiofo.
 April 30, Zambezi, British str., for Nagasaki, &c.
 April 30, Tongshan, British str., for Swatow, &c.
 April 30, Don Juan, Spanish str., for Amoy, &c.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVALS.
 Per Taisang, str., from Shanghai—30 Chinese.
 Per Diamante, str., from Manila—Messrs. G. Higgins, C. E. Beridano, 1 European and 53 Chinese (deck).

DEPARTED.
 Per Clyde, str., for Singapore—Mrs. Ogley, Mrs. Holloway, Messrs. Shekell, and G. S. Ogley.
 For Penang—Mr. J. Temp and servant.
 For Colombo—Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich May and 2 children.
 For London—Mrs. H. Wickling, Mrs. Ryan, Revs. Glover and Morris.
 Messrs. Norman L. Ashburner, T. S. Smith, G. Bateman, and J. Doble.

REPORTS.
 The British steamship Taisang reports that she left Shanghai on the 26th instant. Had moderate north-east winds and overcast sky with rain.
 The British steamship Diamante reports that she left Manila on the 27th instant. Had moderate north-east monsoon and fine weather throughout.

Post Office.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE.
 For Swatow, Amoy, & Taiwan—Per Thales to-morrow, the 1st May, at 11.30 A.M.
 For Shanghai—Per Fooking to-morrow, the 1st May, at 2.30 P.M.

SHIPPING IN HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.
 AMICITA, Norwegian steamer, 527, Joh. Irgens, 29th April—Odessa 10th March, General.
 Order.
 ANCONA, British steamer, 1,888, W. D. Madie, 28th April—Yokohama 18th April, Mails and General—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 ARRATON, APCAR, British steamer, 1,392, J. G. Spence, 23rd April—Calcutta 8th April, Penang 14th, and Singapore 17th, Opium and General—D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.
 BENLID, British steamer, 1,481, J. H. Clark, 29th April—Salgo 25th April, General—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
 BORMIDA, Italian steamer, 1,580, C. Gavazzo, 26th April—Singapore 20th April, General—Carlowitz & Co.
 CHELYDRA, British steamer, 1,574, G. Payne, 24th April—Salgo 20th April, Rice and Paddy—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 CHOWFA, British steamer, 1,057, F. W. Phillips, 27th April—Bangkok 19th April, General—Yuen Fat Hong.
 CLARA, German steamer, 675, H. Ipland, 28th April—Halphong 25th April, Rice and General—A. R. Marty.
 DELTA, French steamer, 717, Abbal, 29th April—Halphong 26th April, General—Messageries Maritimes.
 DONAR, German steamer, 1,041, B. Grundmann, 25th April—Salgo 20th April, Rice—Wiel & Co.
 ELSE, German steamer, 747, M. Jensen, 26th April—Salgo 21st April, Rice—Melchers & Co.
 FALKENBURG, German steamer, 689, H. Friedrich, 26th April—Salgo 22nd April, Rice and Paddy—Melchers & Co.
 FREY, Danish steamer, 397, C. L. Strand, 26th April—Pakhol and Holow 25th April, General—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.
 GLENFUTIN, British steamer, 1,056, E. Norman, 29th April—Whampoa 29th April, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
 HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,120, Harris, 28th April—Moat 22nd April, Coals and General—D. Laprak & Co.
 LOIRE, French steamer, 533, 28th April—Salgo 24th April, General—Chinese.
 NAMOA, British steamer, 863, Goddard, 29th April—Fookhow 26th April, Amoy 27th, and Swatow 28th, General—D. Laprak & Co.
 NANSHAN, British steamer, 805, J. Blackburne, 14th April—Bangkok 6th April, Rice—Hop Hing Hong.
 NIZAM, British steamer, 1,615, Geo. L. Langhorne, R.N.R., 27th April—Bombay 9th April, and Singapore 20th, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.
 OCEANIC, British steamer, 3,308, W. M. Smith, 27th April—San Francisco 22nd April, and Yokohama 22nd, Mails and General—O. & O. S. S. Co.
 PARTHA, British steamer, 2,035, John Pantou, R.N.R., 15th April—Salgo 11th April, General—Adamson, Bell & Co.
 SIAM, British steamer, 991, John M. Tulloch, 27th April—Bangkok 21st April, Rice—Chinese.
 TRALEX, British steamer, 819, Hunter, 28th April—Taiwanfo 23rd April, Amoy 24th, Swatow 27th, General—D. Laprak & Co.
 TRANCE AV, Chinese steamer, 350, Wong Ling Sing, 17th Dec., Halphong 27th Dec., Ballast—Chinese.

RATING VESSELS.
 ADOLPH OBRI, American bark, 1,376, F. Carlson, 5th March—New York 31st August, Kerosene Oil—Reuter, Brockmann & Co.
 COLUMBUS, German ship, 1,428, L. Haselton, 31st April—Singapore 20th March, Timber—Melchers & Co.
 DON JUSTO, American bark, 708, B. Neilson, 21st April—Singapore 28th Feb., Timber. Captain.

DOROTHEA, German bark, 620, H. F. Moeller, 15th March—Hamburg 20th Oct., General.
 DOROTHY, British bark, 310, Angus Crail, 21st April—Pitago 2nd April, Timber—Gibb, Livingston & Co.
 HEINRICH, German bark, 915, F. H. Bannau, 22nd Feb.—Hamburg 20th Sept., General—Carlowitz & Co.

HYDRA, Danish bark, 786, C. Christensen, 26th April—Hamburg 5th December, General—Carlowitz & Co.

JARAS, Peruvian bark, 398, M. Janila, 17th Nov.—Callao (Peru) 10th August, General.
 McLAREN, American ship, 1,313, F. L. Oakes, 28th April—New York 30th November, Petroleum—Order.

ST. JAMES, American ship, 1,487, W. D. Burnham, 28th April—Shanghai 21st April, Ballast—Russell & Co.

ORIENT, German bark, 461, H. R. Gontard, 6th April—Singapore 10th Feb., Timber—Wiel & Co.

SARA MEXICO, Peruvian schooner, 245, A. Munizaga, 4th July—Salgo 27th June, Rice—Captain.

VORING, Norwegian bark, 302, O. P. Larsen, 22nd April—Kel Island 17th March, Timber—Siemssen & Co.

WM. LE LACHEUX, British bark, 573, W. Auld, 17th March—Hobolus 31st January, Iron, Copper, &c.—Wing Wo Chan & Co.
 ZOE, German schooner, 70, Anderson, 21st April—New Britain 5th March, Pêche-de-mor—Blackhead & Co.

To be Let.

TO LET.
 NOS. 25 & 27, ELGIN STREET, behind the Old Union Church.
 Apply to
 HONGKONG, 25th February, 1891. [60]

TO LET.
 HOUSE No. 22 in WYNDHAM STREET, at \$31 per month, including taxes, and from 1st of May.
 FOUR GROUND ROOMS of the same house at \$12 per month; no Cook's-room; Water for these Rooms.
 House No. 1, CHANCERY LANE, at \$15 as heretofore.
 Apply to
 V. GUTIERREZ, 24 Wyndham Street, Hongkong, 25th April, 1891. [626]

TO LET.
 HOUSES at the Peak, and at BRILLIOS TERRACE.
 Room and Shop in BRACONFIELD ARCADE, Queen's Road.
 GODOWNS in Duddell Street.
 Apply to
 BELLIOS & Co. Hongkong, 25th April, 1891. [627]

TO LET.
 NOS. 9 & 11, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
 ROOMS in College Chambers No. 4, OLD BAILEY STREET.
 OFFICES and CHAMBERS in Connaught House, Queen's Road Central.
 OFFICES in Victoria Buildings, No. 2, PEDDER'S HILL.
 Apply to
 DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co. Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [13]

TO BE LET SHORTLY.
 AN exceedingly comfortable and cool 6 ROOMED HOUSE.
 Apply to
 THE SECRETARY, Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.

TO BE LET OR SOLD.
 On favourable terms, with immediate Possession.
 EIGHT HOUSES at "Mountain View," Peak District, near Plunkett's Gap. If sold, part of the Purchase money can remain on Mortgage.
 Apply to
 JOHN A. JUPP, 38 & 40, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [36]

TO LET AT THE PEAK.
 Possession 1st May, 1891.
 THE HOUSE "CREGGAN," Best position.
 Apply to
 M. S. SASSOON & Co. Hongkong, 10th April, 1891. [599]

THE KOWLOON LAND AND BUILDING COMPANY, LIMITED.
TO LET.
 KNUTSFORD TERRACE, KOWLOON.
 HOUSES with 5 ROOMS, including Bath-rooms. Tennis Courts. Good view and Healthy situation. Rent and Taxes \$32 a month.
 Apply to
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 24th March 1901. [482]

TO LET.
 With Immediate Possession.
 No. 17, PRAYA CENTRAL.
 OFFICES—above Messrs. Douglas, Laprak & Co.'s Premises.
 Apply to
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd. Hongkong, 16th December, 1890. [49]

TO BE LET.
 NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE.
 Apply to
 HERCULES J. SCOTT, Hongkong, 3rd February, 1891. [527]

Notices of Firms.
AGENCY
 MITSUBISHI COLLIERIES.
 MR. JOHN GRANT will take charge of this AGENCY during my absence from the Colony.
 H. U. JEFFRIES, Agent, Hongkong, 23rd April, 1891. [620]

NOTICE.
 THE PARTNERSHIP between HOLMES and RODDY, Solicitors, is dissolved to-day by mutual consent.
 HENRY J. HOLMES, ARTHUR B. RODDY, Hongkong, 14th April, 1891.

NOTICE.
 THE Underigned will carry on business at his OFFICE No. 54, Queen's Road.
 HENRY J. HOLMES, Solicitor, Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [579]

Dr. Knorr's ANTIPYRINE.
 (Dose for Adults 15 to 25 grains (100).)
 IS the most approved and most efficacious remedy in cases of HEADACHE, MIGRAINE, NEURALGIA, RHEUMATISM, FEVER, TYPHUS, ERYSIPELAS, HOOPING-COUGH, and many other complaints. It is also the very best Antiseptic. Highly recommended by the medical Faculty. To be had from every reputable Chemist and Druggist. Ask for Dr. KNORR'S ANTIPYRINE! Each Tin bears the inventor's signature, "Dr. KNORR" in red letters.
 Supplies constantly on hand at the China Export Import, and Bank Co.—Sole Agents for China. Beware of spurious imitations! Hongkong, 25th May, 1891. [524]

Hotels.

STAG HOTEL.
 QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.
 THIS HOTEL, situated in the most Central part of Hongkong, has recently been refitted, and has excellent accommodation for visitors.
 The Table is supplied with every delicacy of the Season.
 WINES, LIQUORS, &c. of the very best quality only.
 Charges Moderate.
 HING LEE & Co., Proprietors, Hongkong, 14th April, 1891. [573]

THE SHAMENE HOTEL.
 BRITISH CONCESSION, CANTON.
 THIS FIRST CLASS HOTEL, admirably situated within a few minutes walk of the River Steamer Wharves, is now open to receive Visitors.
 The Bed-rooms are cool, airy and comfortably furnished, and the spacious Dining Room, Sitting Room, and accommodation generally will be found equal to the best Hotels in the Far East.
 The Table D'Hôte is supplied with every luxury in season, and the cuisine is in experienced hands.
 Wines, Spirits, Malt Liquors, etc., of the best quality only.
 A. F. D. ROZARIO, Manager, Hongkong, 4th November, 1890. [1047]

PEAK HOTEL.
 VICTORIA GAP, PEAK, Adjoining the Tramway Terminus.
 THE most beautiful position in the environs of Hongkong situated 1,250 feet above sea level, commanding magnificent views of the City and Harbour of Victoria, the mainland of China and neighbouring islands.
 Cool Southern breezes in Summer with perfect protection from N.E. Winds of Winter.
 The best accommodation of Visitors with every comfort, convenience and attention.
 The Cuisine is under the best supervision and every luxury obtainable is supplied.
 WINES, etc. the best Brands and finest qualities only are kept.
 TERMS MODERATE.
 Telephone No. 29.
 PEAK HOTEL & TRADING Co., Ltd., Proprietors, Hongkong, 13th February, 1891. [277]

THE BOA VISTA.
 BISHOP'S BAY, MACAO.
 THIS House, situated on the sea shore in one of the best and healthiest parts of Macao, and commanding an admirable view facing the South, was OPENED as a HOTEL on the 1st July.
 Every comfort will be provided for visitors, with excellent cuisine and choice Wines.
 Hot, Cold, Shower and Sea Water Baths—Large and well Ventilated Dining, Billiard, and Reading Rooms, and well supplied Bar.
 A small dairy is attached to the premises.
 Mrs. MARIA B. DOS REMEDIOS, Proprietress, [14]

Intimations.
NOTICE.
 THE PUNJON AND SUNGHIE DUA SAMANTAN MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.
 ISSUE OF 60,000 PREFERENCE SHARES OF \$1 EACH FULLY PAID.
 APPLICATIONS will be received at the Company's Office, No. 9, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, for 60,000 \$1 Shares bearing a right to a cumulative Preferential Dividend of 12 per cent.
 In the event of Company being wound up the Holders of the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied in the first place to repaying to them of the amount paid up on such Preference Shares, the residue of such surplus assets shall belong to and be divided among the Ordinary Shareholders of the Company.
 Application forms are to be obtained from and to be sent in to the Company's Bankers, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Hongkong on or before TUESDAY, the 5th May 1891, accompanied by payment of \$1 per share for each share applied for.
 By Order of the Board,
 A. O'D. GOURDIN, Secretary, Hongkong, 23rd April, 1891. [624]

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.
 AN INTERIM BONUS of Eighteen per cent. upon Contributions for the year 1890 has been declared. WARRANTS may be had on application at the Office of the Society, on and after the 6th May.
 By the Order of the Board,
 N. J. EDE, Secretary, Hongkong 25th April, 1891. [628]

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
 A COMPETITION for the "FAIR" CUP, will be held on SATURDAY next, the 2nd prox., commencing at 10 P.M. Ranges 200 and 300 yards; 7 shots standing at 200 yards, and 7 shots sitting or kneeling at 300 yards. Entrance fee 20 cents.
 A Launch will leave the P. & O. Pier at 2.45 P.M. to convey competitors.
 FRANK COLLINS, Hon. Secretary, Hongkong, 28th April, 1891. [65]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.
 HONGKONG DERBY, 1892.
 THE WEIGHTS for the above RACE will be weight for inches, not 10st. 10lb. as heretofore.
 E. H. GORE-BOOTH, Clerk of the Course, Hongkong, 17th March, 1891. [443]

NOTICE.
 JY'S SANITARY COMPOUNDS COMPANY, LIMITED.
 JY'S WOOD PRESERVER OR ANTISEPTIC PAINT.
 THE Underigned have this day been appointed SOLE AGENTS for the sale of these PERFECT DISINFECTANTS, and are prepared to supply quantities to suit purchasers, at Wholesale Prices. Extra Special terms for Shipping and large Orders.
 SIX ROBERT RAWLINSON, C.B., C.E., Chief Sanitary Engineer, Local Government Board, London, says
 "It is the best Disinfectant in use."
 W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co., Bank Buildings, Hongkong, 19th June, 1888. [18]

Intimations.

BAY VIEW HOUSE.
 MR. J. WM. OSBORNE begs to inform his Friends, acquaintances and the public of Hongkong that the Bay View House, formerly The Whitfield, Station will be OPENED on SATURDAY, the 2nd May prox.
 Arrangements have been made with Mr. KENNEDY to run his Busses Every 1 (half) hour from the Clock Tower to Bay View House every day.
 FARES:—10 Cents each way.
 Hongkong, 29th April, 1891. [650]

NOTICE.
 HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.
 SHIPMASTERS AND ENGINEERS
 S are respectfully informed that, if upon their arrival in this Harbour some of the COMPANY'S FOREMEN should be at hand, ORDERS FOR REPAIRS, if sent to the HEAD OFFICE, No. 14, Praya Central, will receive prompt attention.
 In the event of complaints being found necessary, communication with the Underigned is requested, when immediate steps will be taken to rectify the cause of dissatisfaction.
 D. GILLIES, Secretary, Hongkong, 25th August, 1888. [116]

NOTICE.
 FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP AND MODERATE FEES.
 MR. WONG TAI-FONG, Surgeon Dentist, (Formerly attested Apprentice, and latterly assistant to Dr. DOCKERS), HAS REMOVED
 THE MARINE HOUSE, QUEEN'S ROAD, (next to the Telegraph Companies).
 CONSULTATION FREE.
 Hongkong, 7th March, 1891. [395]

SIEN TING.
 SURGEON DENTIST.
 No. 10, D'AGUIAR STREET.
 TERMS VERY MODERATE.
 Consultation free.
 Hongkong, 18th March, 1891. [448]

G. FALCONER & CO.
 WATCH AND CHRONOMETER MANUFACTURERS AND JEWELLERS.
 NAUTICAL INSTRUMENTS, CHARTS AND BOOKS.
 No. 48, Queen's Road Central. [622]

NOTICE.
 GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC ROOMS
 1, Ice House Road are suitably lighted to produce all styles of Portraiture in any weather. CABINETS from \$5 a dozen. CARTES DE VISITE from \$3 a dozen. LIFE SIZED BUSTS in Colour, or Black & White.
 IVORY MINIATURES, &c., &c.
 NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG and the Coast Ports are always ready.
 Hongkong, 24th September, 1890. [138]

NOTICE.
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 Hongkong, 28th August, 1890. [169]

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 L. MALLORY, Hongkong, 24th June 1891. [199]

Intimations.

NOTICE.
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 YAU-MA-TI ENGINEERING WORKS, KOWLOON.
 OFFICE—No. 12, D'Aguiar Street, Hongkong, 25th August, 1890. [30]

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 Hongkong, 6th April, 1890. [31]

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 SCHEELE & Co., Sole Agents, No. 16, Stanley Street, Hongkong, 22nd December, 1880. [144]

JOHN AMBROSE CLARKE, Teacher of Officers and Engineers, No. 75, WYNDHAM STREET, Opposite Central Police Station.

CANDIDATES prepared for the MARINE BOARD EXAMINATIONS. Author of the "NEW NAVIGATION," And an "Arithmetic" for Engineers, &c.; Hongkong, 7th February, 1891. [146]

Robert Fraser, Editor and Publisher, 10, D'Aguiar Street, in the City of Victoria, Hongkong

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 2831

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

BIRTHS.

At 8, Henan Road, Shanghai, on the 19th inst., the wife of J. B. CAMERON, of a son.

On April 22nd, at St. John's College, Shanghai, the wife of J. RHINE, Esq., of H.M. the King of the Netherlands Consulate, Amoy, of a daughter.

On the 22nd April, at 21, Elgin Road, the wife of T. DE FARIA-NEVES, of a son.

DEATHS.

At Hankow, on the 14th inst., WILLIAM FORBES SHARP.

At Shanghai, on 22nd April, WILLIAM ABRAM BURR, aged 55 years.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 27th instant, Captain JOHN PARKINSON HOVLAND, steamer *Fatshan*, aged 50.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

THE GAMBLING ABORTION.

THE *little noir* in this most original of legislative efforts was discovered in section 3 of the proposed ordinance. The section reads:—"A place shall be deemed to be opened, kept or used as a common gaming house, or for the purpose of a lottery, when gambling is one of the main and principal objects for which the said place is opened, kept or used, although such place is also used as an ordinary social club, and the public at large have not access thereto." This was too much even for the Official Phalanx of the Hongkong Legislative Council to swallow without making wry faces, and from Governor DES VŒUX downwards—and it is long way down from his Excellency to that lay figure the Colonial Treasurer—they prevaricated and wanted time, thought gambling was a wicked thing and angels' visits were few and far between, and opined they would quickly settle the difficulty if they only knew how. But they didn't know how, and hence the trouble. We don't know who drafted the original ordinance, and there is no desire on our part to print a single offensive word regarding that *chef-d'œuvre* of legal short-sightedness. But we must really break a lance in defence of public rights, no matter whether Mr. ACKROYD or Mr. GOODMAN is responsible for the thing so realistically described in the heading of this article.

The ostensible object of the *Gambling Ordinance* was to remove a doubt as to what actually constituted a common gaming house in this colony. A large number of so-called Chinese clubs had sprung up in the town to which all and sundry could resort and indulge in games of chance, and in certain cases, when the offenders were hauled up before the magistrate, they were acquitted, owing to the alleged ambiguity of the language of the section under which they were charged. All that was required to regulate gambling in Hongkong and keep it within reasonable limits, was to distinctly lay down, without any room for doubt, the difference between a properly constituted club and a common gaming house. A simple matter apparently, but it nevertheless resulted in the evolution of a very much involved and, as a whole, decidedly idiotic ordinance which threatened the rights and independence of every social institution in Hongkong. And the Unofficial Members very naturally kicked against it, and Governor DES VŒUX practically upheld their objections.

We have already quoted the objectionable section of the ordinance as originally drafted, and we cannot really see that the proposed amendment is any improvement. It reads—"A place which is used as an ordinary social club to which the public at large have not access, shall nevertheless be deemed a common gaming house if kept or used either for the playing of any of the games mentioned in A, or for the purpose mentioned in B in section 2." Now, before going farther, we must explain, as far as we can, what the misty references to "A" and "B" mean. The genius who drafted this legislative masterpiece wants to define what a lottery is, forgetting that the *Lottery Act* requires neither explanation nor definition. And he says that "a lottery includes any game, method or device whereby money or money's worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon or to be determined by chance, or lot (or the result of any race or contest); whether the same be held, drawn, exercised or managed within or without the colony." And there is a lot more ignorant rot intended to mean the same thing. Horse-racing is a perfectly legitimate and legal pastime; a every hedge lawyer ought to know right well, stakes in connection with racing are just as valid as the transactions of ordinary mercantile life; but our Hongkong-legal *Sowzy* whoever he may be—not that that matters very much, as he is most probably a fitting representative of the mixed crowd of knaves and fools who have flooded this colony to its detriment, for years—has made the subscribers to an ordinary racing sweepstake, a universally recognised legal contract common criminals in the eye of the law and subject to the pains and penalties provided for by this ordinance. Supposing ten owners of race-ponies, subscribed £200 a-piece for a cup or sweepstake to be run for at Happy Valley, they would place themselves under the ban of this ridiculous definition of a lottery and could be fined or sent to prison. Was this necessary to prevent the existence of low Chinese gaming houses under the name of clubs? Will offensive interference with the comparatively innocent and certainly

harmless sports and pastimes of Europeans tend in any shape or form to reduce the particular vice against which this law is specially aimed? If not, what is the good of it, as at present framed?

The legal gentleman who framed this model of Hongkong modern jurisprudence, must either have been imitating RIP VAN WINKLE or attending the Sunday school classes of the Salvation Army. He defines a common gaming house as "any place opened, kept or used for playing therein at (sic) any game of chance, or any mixed game of chance and skill, (1) in which a bank is kept by one or more of the players exclusively of the other or others, or (2) in which the chances of the game are not all favourable to all the players, including among (sic) the players the banker or other person by whom the game is managed, or against whom the players stake, play or bet—(3) in which any commission, or percentage is charged in connection with the game, the stakes or the winnings—or (4) in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for." Any place which is held for the purpose of a lottery or lotteries comes under the ordinance. If there is anything new, or original, or sensible in the foregoing, we shall be glad if the Attorney General or any of our readers will point it out. The existing *Lottery Act*, unless Sir GEORGE PHILLIPPOWS is all at sea, and we don't think he was, fully provide for race-lotteries, pari-mutuel, totalisator, and everything connected with horse-racing—vide his lordship's judgment in the very interesting case of *Fraser-Smith v. Moore* in 1884—and we cannot see the slightest necessity or any reasonable grounds for this threatened interference with the long established social privileges of the foreign residents of Hongkong. Horse-racing, race-lotteries, the totalisator and pari-mutuel, a dollar limit at poker or a fifty cent point at whist, are to be made criminal offences—why? have these wicked indulgences shocked public morality, outraged "old custom," interfered in any way with vested interests or the rights of the community? Oh! dear not! but the low Chinese gaming dens must be shut up, and our official legal luminaries cannot see the difference between a low hell, open to all and sundry for purposes of gaming and for nothing else in Lascar Row, and the Hongkong Club in Queen's Road and the City Club in Ice House Street. If Governor DES VŒUX cannot see his way to absolutely withdraw this most Quixotic of intended reforms, the representatives of the public in the local legislature should practically protest by declining to vote and leaving the Council-room en masse.

The man who makes a common gaming house of every respectable club in the colony, where games of chance are common—whist, poker, euchre, billiards, bowls, etc.—in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for, is only fit to be tarred and feathered and left in that condition. What are excessive stakes? Twenty dollars or twenty cents? Who shall decide? A Hongkong police magistrate? Not scarcely! that feeble bludge has burst. Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX leaving here shortly for good; before he leaves, we strongly recommend him to appoint a Mixed Commission of sensible and practical men to investigate the gambling evil in Hongkong and to report on the requirements of the colony in that direction. To pass the present Ordinance in its present shape would be the height of folly.

DETERRENT SENTENCES.

At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Hongkong Legislative Council held in December last Mr. Registrar ACKROYD, who was then acting as Attorney-General, in giving his views on the proposed extension of Victoria Gaol, practically advocated wholesale flogging as the punishment most likely to have a deterrent effect in the reduction of crime in this colony. And notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary of State positively and absolutely declined to accede to the recommendation of the Gaol Inquiry Committee, of which the worthy Registrar of the Supreme Court was chairman, that flogging should be sanctioned for a number of comparatively minor offences, we now find Mr. ACKROYD in his present position of Acting Puisne Judge ignoring the very plainly expressed instructions of the Home Government, and ordering the lash with no sparing hand on a hapless prisoner who had the misfortune to come under his jurisdiction.

On the broad question of flogging for offences against law and order there is no room for the judges in Crown colonies to make any serious mistake. Public opinion in England has distinctly said that flogging as a legal punishment, excepting for garroters and in cases where brutal violence has been used, will not be tolerated, and that expression of public opinion has been supported by Her Majesty's Government. Fifteen years ago the state of affairs in Hongkong was simply infamous; public floggings at the back of the Harbour Office were of frequent occurrence, the almost daily scenes at the whipping post—being of a most degrading and demoralising character. The colony owes the removal of that relic of barbarism to Sir JOHN POTT HENNESSY, who not only abolished public flogging but reduced corporal punishment in gaol to the narrowest limits; and this he did with the entire approval of the Secretary of State, and to the satisfaction of the vast majority of the Hongkong community, the principal dissenters being certain officials of the old and brutal

regime, some of whom are still staunch advocates of the triangles and the "cat." Of late years sentences of flogging have been greatly on the increase, the present Chief Justice having set what we consider a most unworthy example both in this direction and generally as regards severity of sentences, an example, however, which the Acting Puisne Judge appears determined to imitate. This policy is neither in harmony with the times in which we live, nor is it calculated to effect the main objects in view—the reduction of crime, the rehabilitation to honest life of first offenders and other persons who are not habitual criminals, and the intelligent treatment of the whole criminal classes. Hongkong has retrograded, not advanced, in its criminal system during the past ten years, and it is undoubtedly the excessively severe punishments inflicted in cases of petty larceny, and in many instances for other trifling offences both at the Magistracy and Supreme Court, have contributed in no inconsiderable extent to the increase of crime and the steady augmentation of the ranks of the criminal classes. A Chinese who is once flogged in gaol is at once placed outside the pale of decent life; any honest occupation for the future is rendered almost impossible, and the indelible marks of his disgrace, which he will bear on his body all his life, render him a social pariah and drive him to steal in order to satisfy the pangs of hunger. He must either starve or steal; he prefers the latter, is again arrested, tried, sentenced, flogged—and becomes a hopeless case. It is against this short-sighted method of manufacturing criminals that we have consistently protested for years.

At the Criminal Sessions on the 20th inst. Acting Puisne Judge ACKROYD sentenced FAN KI, an ex-police constable, to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, and three whippings of twenty-five strokes each within the first six months. The man's crime, to use the learned Judge's own definition, was in watching so as to allow his confederates to commit a robbery. This was the head and front of the policeman's offending; and even admitting his guilt and its aggravation by the fact of his being a public officer, the sentence was out of all proportion to the crime, especially as it was a first offence and the prisoner had personally committed no violence. For the seventy-five lashes we can see no justification whatever, and his Excellency the Governor should interfere and prevent what on the face of it is an uncalled-for outrage on public justice. The inequalities of sentences passed in the Hongkong Courts have become little short of a scandal and should, long since have been firmly dealt with by the Executive; we shall review a few noteworthy examples, for public information, at an early date.

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN."

"The same old thing, I suppose!" Such was the satirical comment of the Secretary of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, on learning that the senior officer of the Fleet, Capt. JOHN P. HOVLAND—whose death we recorded on Monday last—had been removed from the steamship *Fatshan* on a stretcher, to the Government Civil Hospital, suffering from a severe attack of pleurisy, aggravated by a general break-up, which eventually caused his death. The remark was not a judicious one; it was totally uncalled for, and had circumstances been otherwise, it was in shocking bad taste. The Secretary of the Steamboat Company enjoys the reputation—whatever it may be worth—of being the cynic par excellence of this colony. The words of wisdom which fall from his lips like glittering dewdrops are no doubt treasured by an admiring Board of Directors; his opinions, to use MACAULAY's well-known phrase, may be "adulated with scorn" and still may be the virgin metal believed in by some shareholders; but we fail to see how he is going to justify giving him every licence and every possible advantage available, the gross and bitter and cowardly insult he offered to a man who was practically on his death-bed and who for the long period of nineteen years had been a most faithful servant of the Company which pays Mr. THOMAS ARNOLD his very handsome monthly stipend. In England the remark which opens this article, under the circumstances would probably have subjected the speaker to personal violence of a serious character; in Hongkong it will possibly lead to an increase of salary; but to those who know the truth and are not altogether debased from common manhood, that famous saying of ROBERT BURNS about "man's inhumanity to man" will inevitably press upon the memory when the Secretary of the Steamboat Co.'s charitable comment upon an old and trusted servant, who had practically died at his post, comes to be carefully and dispassionately analysed and considered.

"The same old thing, I suppose!" The meaning is only too obvious, its brutal heartlessness leaves no room for further question. But where is the justification? Ay, there's the rub, Mr. Secretary. For nineteen years JOHN HOVLAND served the Steamboat Company faithfully and well; he was blown up in that wretched abortion of a steamer the *Fatshan* and only saved his life by a miracle; he walked the streets of Hongkong on his uppers for many months through the base ingratitude of the Directors; for nearly seven years afterwards he commanded the Company's steamers in a manner that has never been excelled; against the advice

of his best friends he stuck to his post, after his health had exhibited evident symptoms of an impending collapse, until Nature fairly gave way and he had to be carried, as on that fatal night the 24th February, 1884, to the Government Hospital, where he died two days ago, a victim to the exaggerated notions of duty and to the gross neglect of the Directors of the Steamboat Company, who ought to have relieved him from duty weeks ago. And his requiem from the official representative of the Directors was that chaste specimen of cynical philosophy, "the same old thing, I suppose!" For shame!

The success achieved by the Steamboat Company since its inception has been due in no inconsiderable degree to the skill and care exhibited by the commanders and officers in managing the steamers, and also to the courtesy, tact, and obliging dispositions of the captains in dealing with passengers. No commander in the service has been more deservedly popular than Captain HOVLAND, none has ever been more kindly and obliging to his passengers, none more skilful and efficient in the performance of his onerous and important duties, none a more devoted and faithful servant and advocate of the Steamboat Company—no man living has done more for the interests of his employers and not one has been so scurvily recompensed. "The same old thing, I suppose," sneered His Mightiness, the "mere scribe" of the Company, the description is Mr. BELLIOS', chairman of the Company, not ours—when he learned that JOHN HOVLAND, after a life-time's hard work in the service, had been carried to the Hospital—to die. And we repeat "for shame!" HOVLAND and the present writer have had a dispute, extending over some years, over a well-known passage from "Horace," we never could satisfactorily settle it, and it is too late now, but we hope one of these days to oblige the Secretary of the Steamboat Co. with our version of the wisdom of the great Latin philosopher and *savant*, and to be able to convince him that to carry into effect the cynicism in which he appears to delight, a man must be as insensible as a granite rock.

THE GOVERNOR AND THE PUBLIC.

It has frequently been our duty, especially since his return from sick leave in December last, to acquaint Governor DES VŒUX with unpleasant facts. His Excellency doubtless was not influenced one hair's breadth by what we said, although he has hitherto had the grace (save and except when the Military Contribution question was on the tapis) to listen to the voice of the public to some extent as represented by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. Yesterday morning (27th inst.), however, he took the unprecedented and in our opinion very questionable course of convening a semi-private meeting of the Unofficial Members, at very short notice. Those gentlemen responded to the invitation with more or less alacrity—thereby, without the least shadow of doubt, weakening their hitherto unassailable claim to public support—and met His Excellency (who was accompanied by General DRESSER) in the Council Chamber. At shorthand-writer from the *Daily Press* was in attendance, in order, we presume, that the representatives of the tax-payers might be impressed with the fact that their utterances would be recorded, not necessarily as a guarantee of good faith, to reverse the editorial phrase, but for publication if they said anything that could be construed as "disrespectful." No independent reporters were in attendance, no accurate and authorised account of what took place is yet obtainable, and His Excellency's Private Secretary this afternoon gave us to understand that we were dependent on his master's august pleasure as to whether we ever got one or not.

So far our readers will simply have formed the opinion that this paper is smarting under the loss of some good "copy," but we will try to show that under cover of this policy of privacy, His Excellency is concealing, or trying to conceal, the fact that he has gravely insulted the whole of the residents in this Colony, as represented by Messrs. P. ARMIT, J. J. KESWICK, T. H. WHITEHEAD and HO KAI. For nearly an hour, ignoring any interruption, Sir WILLIAM DES VŒUX stood in front of those gentlemen and harangued them on the text of "Humility." In language which we have reason to believe, was not resented simply on account of the Governor's former popularity and his present shattered state of health. He accused them of seeking to dictate to her Majesty's Representative on the subject of the Military Contribution and the Salaries dispute; he directly insinuated that their joint letters on these subjects were insolent to a degree, and he said, in so many words—"If our informant's memory is to be relied on—that he should make the Colony suffer by neglecting his duty to it, if the Unofficial Members did not acknowledge their sins and withdraw from their offensive position."

Such is the tone which our servant—the servant of every tax-payer in this Colony—has adopted towards the public's representatives in the "Citizens' Castle" of the guarded Council Chamber. His Excellency is, in our opinion, very ill—very ill indeed, that the medical diagnosis of his case is very gloomy—and the Hongkong community, who forgive much in a sick man who has proved himself, in several British Colonies, a very able representative of English interests, on that account—and on no other—the hon-

unofficial members contented themselves with briefly expressing their dissent, instead of turning on their heels in eloquent silence. Their position must have been a most painful one; conscious of the justice of their cause though they were, they had to submit to be addressed in terms which at any other time could not have been too hotly resented, and that they have the sympathy of the public whose cause they have championed admits of no doubt. The situation is critical—how critical we cannot say until, by a perusal of the utterances of his Excellency yesterday, and by the lapse of time, we see exactly what weight to attach to a sick man's fulminations.

KOWLOON CITY EN FETE.

If any commentary on the filmsiness of the boasted civilisation of Westerners were needed—if a good example of the latent barbarism common to the European and the Chinese alike were demanded—a visit to Kowloon City yesterday (26th inst.) would have supplied the want. On the strength of sensational rumours, that six so-called "pirates" were to be decapitated—and a woman—tortured by the *ling chi* process at Kowloon City, a morbid mob of residents in this Colony spent their Sabbath in reeking gambling-hells and grog-shops across the water, hoping that they would be so fortunate as to see seven hapless wretches—especially the woman—brought to make a Hongkong holiday! From Saturday afternoon until late last night that pestilential spot was the scene of what can only be described as a disgusting and disgraceful orgie. A more mixed crowd was surely never seen there than that which, until dark, gazed expectantly towards Kowloon Point, round which the gun-boats bearing the condemned would have to come; women, not one nor two, but over two score, attended the promised torture of one of their own sex with all tranquillity. Drinking, gambling, elbowing past lepers to gaze curiously on the exposed heads of the nineteen men who were executed the preceding week—all these and many more examples of the blessings of modern Christianity must have helped the missionary cause greatly, and impressed on the minds of the pagan natives the greater good of being Christians, as thereby they got a day off each week to go and see executions. But all the moralising in the world won't alter these things, we suppose, so we need not waste time and excellent sentiment on the subject, but go with the stream, and supply for general information, a few ghastly details.

The *ling chi* process is of a three-fold nature. It is commonly interpreted by the learned ignorant as meaning "cutting into a thousand pieces." As a matter of fact that punishment is called the *tsin hi*, and is reserved for rebels against the reigning dynasty. The common form of the particular barbarity now under review is the *tsai ling chi*, the "piece-cutting." In which thirty-six wounds are inflicted. An excellent example of that form of capital punishment is afforded by the photograph taken by Mr. SHARP, late chief engineer of the steamer *Fatshan*, at Canton, last year, excepting that he did not get the mutilated head. This terrible punishment is inflicted on paricides, and on women who have poisoned their husbands. The third, and least terrible form, is the *tsai ling chi*, or eight cuts. It is reserved for women who have committed crimes too serious to be expiated by simple strangling. It was this last mode of torture which rumour, alleged would be inflicted in this particular case on the Vanishing Lady—or rather the Phantom Female—at Kowloon City last Saturday.

It is hard to say how much (or how little) truth there was in this rumor, but a member of our staff, who was at Kowloon City on Saturday and Sunday, saw the mandarin and the commander of the forces, both of whom said they expected the gunboats at any moment. In the squalid little gaol were two middle-aged women—one of whom had a very contused arm, which she said she was unable to get doctored. An official gave our representative to understand that they were implicated in the same crime as the woman who was to be tortured, having helped her to kill her daughter-in-law; but somehow they had escaped her sentence. There was certainly a pretence made of keeping men on the look-out for the gunboats, and a man who was alleged to be an assistant-executioner was pointed out, and apparently filled the responsible situation to his own satisfaction. At the same time the official countenances were an expression which implied concealed joy at having fooled the barbarians so completely, and in view of the fact that the gambling dens were driving such a trade as they never did before, the probability is that the modern Chinese *Shylock*, his Excellency, LI HAN-CHANG, and his shabby crowd of obsequious subordinates were at the bottom of the whole thing. The Customs officials in Hongkong, who would certainly have heard if the gunboats really had left Canton on Saturday morning, assert that the whole thing was a canard.

THE PROPOSED WATER-WORKS FOR CANTON.

The local Chinese paper *Chung Ngai Sun* is well informed, the Canton Water-works scheme, which has attracted considerable public attention in this colony lately, has collapsed. Our correspondent publishes what purports to be replies from Viceroy LI HAN-CHANG and the Governor of Canton to the petitions of Ho Lun Kwei, who, we understand, was one of the

principal promoters of the projected new water supply for the capital of Kwangtung. The Viceroy sets out that the labour and expenses necessary to carry out the proposed works would be enormous, and that if the community were called upon to contribute towards the cost and upkeep, serious troubles would probably arise. And as LI HAN-CHANG, at his advanced age, is naturally desirous of avoiding any conflict with an irate populace who most assuredly would "kick against" any increased taxation even for such a boon as a plentiful supply of good water, he has solved the difficulty to his own satisfaction at least by shelving the petition, and refusing to memorialise the Emperor in favor of the project. His Excellency has further given orders for the immediate arrest and severe punishment of Ho Lun Kwei, whom he describes as an official dismissed from office, and who has already been under the ban of the Emperor's displeasure.

The Governor's reply is couched in pretty much the same terms as the Viceroy's. He opines that if the people were forbidden to use water from their own wells—almost every house in Canton has a separate well of its own—and compelled to pay for a supply from the proposed "Water-works," it would be difficult to get them to obey with delight. He also foresees serious troubles in the suggested monthly collection of a water-tax, sums up by concluding that the benefits of the new scheme would be "very little" and the disadvantages proportionately great, and therefore refuses to accede to the petitioner's proposals.

This is only one more instance of the strong disinclination of the Chinese to adopt foreign methods; unless absolutely compelled to do so by the necessities of the moment. The proposed Water-works, would undoubtedly have proved an invaluable boon to the millions who crowd the narrow streets of Canton, but the difficulties in the way of realising the scheme on the lines proposed were almost impracticable from the first. Any attempt to impose a fresh tax on a proverbially conservative and stiff-necked populace, who, Chinese-like, are satisfied with the water already at their disposal, would inevitably have led to riots and bloodshed, and without such tax the carrying out of the works and maintaining them after completion would have been quite impossible. And so the undertaking collapsed.

OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEAD-LOCK.

We seem to have arrived at a period in the history of this by no means unimportant Crown colony which needs careful thought and most cautious inquiry. The strain at present existing between the official and unofficial members concerning the various questions before the Legislative Council in Hongkong have their counterparts in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. The questions being dealt with may not have been skillfully handled, nor perhaps are they apt methods of bringing out the fact that discontent exists. The discontent is not, however, on one point or in reference to one question; it is deeper than that; it is the spirit of autocratic versus Government-by-representatives that is on the balance; it is the attempt of the Crown Colonies Government to perpetuate a condition of things which cost one at least of the English Kings his head, and two, or three more their thrones. It is a repetition of the old mistakes which lost the United States to the British Crown. The continued divisions into Unofficial and Official groups in the Legislative Council here betoken a condition of things which has only had one result in the history of the English-speaking people for the last 800 years. It may be the fault of the system of Government more than the governing class which demands reparation, but it is evident that something has to be done, and will be done soon, if not with a "reckless whistle" at least in no uncertain form. We are honoured with a representative of the Queen, and could we get that representative to imitate the position her Majesty holds in matters constitutional we would not object to the infliction of a lay figure. But such is not the case. Her Majesty's representative is permitted by the peculiar constitution of a Crown colony to reign pretty much as he pleases. He laughs at unruly members of his Council and rejoices how effectively he handles these revolutionary gentlemen; he creates a Sanitary Board in which the elect of the people may expend their energetic howling against what is a mere screen for the autocratic doings of willfully short-sighted officials. All these are tactics which hide the truth for a time, but when the Anglo-Saxon seriously takes up matters, especially matters constitutional, we betide any one who obstructs his reaching his goal, more particularly when the advocates of progress are offensively ridiculed by their time-being masters.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Capt. H. T. Hawkins, R.A., has resumed his duties as Adjutant of the Hongkong Volunteers from the 15th inst.

At a special session of the Justices of the Peace on Tuesday, May 15th, Mr. Robert Ingham will apply for a license to sell and retail intoxicating liquors at the Mount Austin Hotel, Victoria Gap, and must submit to a medical examination.

Captain F. de Vere Crighton, who has completed his two years' term of engagement as Military Instructor in the Royal Military College of Sandhurst, has left for England, where he will rejoin his regiment.

action on behalf of these friendless, characterless, hopeless men.

VIII.

"Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort
As if he scorned himself and mocked his spirit
That could be moved to smile at anything."

Julius Caesar.

It would not be an altogether complete description of existence in Gaol if I omitted to include a few brighter gleams as some relief to the black shadows hitherto prevailing in these poor pictures. A prisoner's existence is not all shot-drill and skill; he has a few weak pleasures. He can get a book once a week, for instance, so long as he is not undergoing punishment. There is a Prisoners' Library comprising about fifty volumes, which for dullness and dryness are unvaried. In the new past some Government Chaplain got a few dollars granted by Government to organize a library, and he bought a lot of good little story-books, and instructive volumes such as the "Life of Elshah." Then they were bound in sombre black, and stamped with gold stamps on every second page, to prevent the reader from falling into the illusion that he was at his club. Any one could be read in an hour, but by carefully allowing oneself to be lulled by the easy flow of the narrative, and to some extent to read about William and the Buttercup, and the other good little bits, by the kindness of the then Superintendent a few prisoners were allowed to borrow books from the Officers' Library—a privilege very highly valued by the favored few. It does seem a little incongruous, though, to see No. 1, devouring a three-volume novel bearing Muddle's label on the cover. Poor beggar—it helps him to forget his woes for a while, at any rate.

Christmas Day is the great festival of the year in the Hermitage. In former years one of the Inders provided a good dinner for the inmates, and since his death the Officers' Fine Fund (I believe) has been drawn on to continue the custom. An appetizing breakfast of savoury stew in unlimited quantity was added last Christmas morning, and discounted the roast mutton and plum-pudding at mid-day to some extent. "For that occasion only" the battered, worn-out knives, 14th century forks, and rude iron spoons were replaced by white-handled, tableware; for the greasy tin usually served out there were also replaced by white-handled, tableware. Then there were half-a-dozen oranges for dessert, and (so rumor ran) a drop of something short was mysteriously obtained by one or two lucky fellows. The majority, however, had to content themselves with the Tyam vintage. The year before, a factious swindler employed at painting managed to draw up three labels—"Brandy," "Rum," and "Beer," and surreptitiously affixed them to big water-butts, to the infinite amusement of his comrades. On this day license was given to the inmates to drink, and the prisoners may talk without fear of bread-and-water, if they have anything to talk about. There was no work done, of course—not even by the Chinese. Like good children everyone was allowed to stay in the yards a little later than usual instead of being locked up at 4.15 p.m. And when night fell the outside public who lived within half a mile must have listened with wonder to the hearty choruses which broke the wonted stillness, and which were the forerunners of the Feast with which the men, invisible from each other though they were, raised their voices unitedly before discipline began to be re-asserted, to continue for the next 365 days.

There are little ways of mildly enjoying one's self on ordinary occasions, too; a quiet smile will be excited by the state of the clock (only to be risked with a few of the more amiable turnkeys) of "Will you be good enough to lock my gate? I've got a lot of valuable oakum in here, and it might get stolen." One man excited general admiration among the prisoners by a pretty cool turn-out. A turnkey was passing along the corridor one evening, smoking a cigar, when the prisoner stretched forth his hand, calmly took the cigar from between the turnkey's lips, and finished it in the seclusion of his cell. He didn't get reported, strange to say.

Many are the devices resorted to by both Chinese and foreign prisoners to secrete their forbidden treasures. A Celestial will hide a couple of ten-cent pieces in a little ball of wax stolen from the stores, and stick it into the window-bar. Money is money, I need hardly say, even in Gaol, and a Sixth guard will smuggle in a box of matches, or a sausage (the favorite form of forbidden fruit) for a few cents. Shoes, belt, cap, coat—any article of dress, in fact—will be slit open, if a pellet of tobacco or opium can be got, notwithstanding the daily searching. I remember one long-sentence Chinese prisoner who got into trouble through his *cash* being discovered. He was sent to work, and even there he contrived to smoke a pipe. That was taken from him, and in desperation he asked that the Chinese Catholic priest might visit him. The priest did so, and the hardened beggar, instead of listening to the ministrations he had been supposed to years for, simply said "Can't you get me a chew?"

As regards the debtors I am not in a position to speak, as they are confined apart from the rest, but I saw enough of them to make me reflect on the folly of taking a man away from all chance of settling his creditors and then expecting him to do so after his employment and credit have gone. But one need not have been in Gaol to understand that.

THE SUICIDE OF A SOLDIER.

At the Magistrate's this afternoon (28th inst.) Mr. Wile, Acting Coroner, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the death of Private Wallace, who shot himself on Saturday morning last at the Victoria Barracks, Queen's Road.

Inspector Bremner was in charge of the case, and the following evidence was taken:—
Dr. R. H. Smythe, Army Medical Staff, said that he was called to Victoria Barracks last Saturday, and found the deceased there. He felt the back of his head, where there was a large hole, and saw that the mouth was cut about an inch. The cause of death was a bullet wound. The bullet had entered the mouth, passed through the palate, and thence through the head. Death must have been instantaneous. The wound was caused by a Martini-Heery bullet, which was found imbedded in the wall behind the body of the deceased. From the Medical History sheet, witness found several entries against his name for epilepsy, but he was never seen by any medical man. Upon examination of the brain were found old marks of meningitis.

Private Wood, A. & S. Highlanders, said he was walking along the verandah about 9.45 a.m. in Victoria Barracks on Saturday last. He heard a report, and running to a window whence the

sound had come saw a man sitting on the bed with a rifle against his breast, the butt being on the floor.

Private Herbert, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased was subject to fits, but was of sober habits. On Saturday morning he seemed all right. He had fallen over the verandah once during a fit.

Sergeant Irvine, A. & S. Highlanders, said that he left the deceased cleaning his rifle. He afterwards heard the deceased had shot himself upon witness's bed. He drank a little, but a small quantity of liquor used to bring on the fits. Witness did not know if the deceased was in any trouble.

Colr. Sergt. T. Boyd, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased had been five years and a-half in the Regiment, and was 22 years old. He was more subject to fits after drinking.

A. Worsley found that the cause of death was a self-inflicted bullet wound.

THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE GOVERNOR.

AN EXPLANATION.

We have been requested to publish the following correspondence:—

HONGKONG, 15th April, 1891.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour by direction of the Governor to acknowledge His Excellency's receipt of a letter dated 14th April, 1891, and written by you as representing the unofficial members of the Legislative Council now present in the Colony with reference to a recent motion in Council to the effect that the Colony is "not now in a position to pay the increased salaries recommended by the unofficial members."

The authorities of this letter inform the Secretary of State on the subject, and request that this intention may be notified to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by telegram. His Excellency has directed me to state in reply that he hopes in the course of a few days to be able to make known the course which he proposes to take after giving this important subject his full consideration.

I have, &c., (Signed) W. M. DEANE, Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. P. RYRIE.

J. J. KESWICK.

HO KAI.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

HONGKONG, 27th April, 1891.

His Excellency the Governor.

SIR,—On the afternoon of Saturday the 25th inst., I was favored with a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary enquiring whether his communication dated 15th inst. had been received by me. I desire to inform Your Excellency that the despatch in question never reached my hands. It appears to have been left at my office in my absence, and to have been mislaid.

Neither my colleagues nor myself were aware of the existence of that letter when ours of the 24th inst. was prepared and sent in.

I very much regret, and so do my colleagues, that such an accident should have happened, and that an impression should have been left on the public mind that Your Excellency had not even acknowledged the receipt of our first letter. This mistake will at once be corrected by the publication of this letter, but the Unofficial Members have still to express their regret that Your Excellency's reply to their letter of the 14th, as distinguished from its acknowledgment, was so long delayed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

(Signed) P. RYRIE.

SUBSIDISED RELIGION IN HONGKONG.

The Trustees of St. John's Cathedral have forwarded us a copy of a petition which, we assume, has recently been forwarded to the Secretary of State, urging that the determination arrived at by the Home Government in 1851, that on the retirement of the then Colonial Chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Jennings) all ecclesiastical grants from Government, so far as the colony of Hongkong is concerned, should cease—be rescinded and that the present endowment should be continued. The reasons given by the petitioners speak for themselves; whether they are worth consideration or are absolutely worthless is a mere matter of opinion, but we hold that the principle of the vast majority of the taxpayers of this colony being called upon to pay for a system of religious worship with which they do not agree, and which has for many years been maintained at the public expense for the benefit of an insignificant minority, is radically unsound and cannot be justified. The Scotch Church in Hongkong has been self-supporting since its first establishment years ago; if the English Church cannot support itself, the sooner its doors are closed the better for the cause of true religion. A pauper church in these advanced days is not an edifying sight, but that is exactly what the signatories of this petition desire to have perpetuated in this colony. It may not be—

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN, EMPRESS OF INDIA, ETC., ETC., ETC.

May it please your Majesty,

The Petition of the Undersigned Residents of Hongkong.

Sheweth

That whereas a former Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch dated the 12th July, 1851, announced to the then Governor of the Colony that the system of grants to ecclesiastical bodies in the Colony would be gradually discontinued as the offices of the present incumbents became vacant;

And whereas your Petitioners are firmly convinced that it would be "injurious to the welfare of the Colony that this step should be taken;

Your Petitioners humbly beg that the decision which has been arrived at may be reconsidered, and that the Church of England in this colony may continue in the enjoyment of the moderate endowment which has hitherto been provided by the State, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the same reasons which existed for rescinding the decision to withdraw the Government Grant for ecclesiastical purposes in the Straits Settlements—a Crown Colony like Hongkong—obtain now in this Colony.

2. Because there are certain officers of the immediate necessity, such as religious attendance, always pressing in this climate, the management of charities and distribution of charitable funds, for the performance of which no one could be held responsible except a clergyman supported out of the public funds.

3. Because the Gaol and Hospital always contain inmates for whose religious wants, in the absence of a clergyman deputed to visit them, there would in many cases be no one to administer.

4. Because the Chinese, who contribute at least nine-tenths of the revenue of the Colony, have no objection to the continuance of grants for ecclesiastical purposes.

5. Because the Chinese, though not availing themselves in large numbers of the services

provided by such grants, have for their part been endowed out of public funds with a hospital exclusively devoted to themselves, have had a liberal education placed within their reach, and a merely nominal charge and enjoy many other concessions involving an outlay estimated to be not far short of \$1,300,000, while many temple sites are held by them free or at a merely nominal Crown rent.

6. Because the expenses in connection with the support of a clergyman, clerk, &c., not salaried by Government, would fall for the most part on the shoulders of officials and heads of firms numbering under a hundred, each of whom would thus be called upon to contribute a large annual sum in order to sustain the services of the Church of England in the Colony.

7. Because the maintenance of many officials such as a contribution would be out of the question, whilst it would prove a large additional tax upon non-officials, to whom constant appeals are being made on behalf of religion and charity.

8. Because in the probable event of the inability of the officials and wealthier non-officials to bear this expense, not only will these two classes be deprived of the benefits of the regular services of the Church of England, but a large portion of the community who frequent the Cathedral and are not in a position to pay seat rent will be turned adrift and be practically cut off from their wonted public religious exercises.

9. Because all sections of the Church of England, whether Broad, High, Low, &c., now wrap together and tolerate the present form of service; if, however, the salary of a clergyman depended on the congregation, there are fears that the supporters of various sections would wish for a clergyman representing their peculiar views, and that schisms would thereby occur, rendering impossible the maintenance of the services of the Church of England.

10. Because the change contemplated will effect a small, if any saving in Government money, for public opinion will require the services of an official clergyman in the Gaol and Hospital, public property the presence of a responsible clergyman to undertake the burial of the dead, and public convenience due facilities for the performance of the rites of matrimony.

11. Because the only expenditure that would be retrenched by the abolition of grants for ecclesiastical purposes would be a salary nominally of £200, but really of £600, paid to the Colonial Chaplain and representing little more than remuneration for the necessary services of burying the dead, attendance at the gaol, at hospitals, &c.

12. Because if this salary be withdrawn, the Colony will have to pay nearly, if not quite, as much in allowances for these services, thus substituting a precarious and unsatisfactory arrangement for one which works to the satisfaction of all concerned.

13. Because the determination to abolish all grants for ecclesiastical purposes on the death or retirement of the present incumbents is not called for by any public demand. On the contrary, the almost unanimous opinion of the whole Colony, embracing as it does many nationalities and creeds, which is evidenced by the signatures to this Petition, is wholly adverse to the course proposed.

14. Because the aforesaid policy should not, regardless of the circumstances of the case, be needlessly imposed upon an unwilling community which, administering its own revenue, is particularly interested in guarding against its misappropriation.

And Your Majesty's obedient and dutiful servants will ever pray, &c.

SPECIAL LICENSING SESSIONS.

THE RECRUITES IN ARMS.

A special session of Justices was held at the Magistrate's on the 28th inst. for the purpose of considering an application from C. H. W. Wallis, a German, for a licence to sell intoxicating liquors as an adjunct to his business as restaurateur at No. 15 Wellington Street. Mr. A. G. Wise presided, and there were also present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, G. Sharp, G. Horspool, and T. Shelton Hooper.

The Chairman said that the applicant gave as references Mr. Koch, the Secretary of the German Club, Mr. Nibbel, and Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Koch said anything to say?

Mr. Sharp:—I would only make reference to Mr. Horspool.

Mr. Horspool:—I have already reported that the man bears an excellent character.

The Chairman:—But as to the desirability of a restaurant of such a nature in this situation? Mr. Horspool:—The police report is that it is not necessary, and I still say that.

The Magistrate's Clerk said that Mr. Caldwell was to have appeared for the applicant, though he had not yet arrived.

The Chairman could take no notice of that, as he was not present. Was there anything further, for or against?

Mr. Sharp had to present to his Worship and his fellow Justices three petitions in this matter. Mr. Parkes at this point attended on behalf of the applicant. He had nothing to say.

Mr. Sharp:—The Acting Captain Superintendent has just remarked that the only objection the Police have in the matter is that a house licensed to sell intoxicating liquors in this position is not needed. The three petitions which I have to present against the granting of this application are supported and vouched for by the Rev. H. G. Bondfield, of Union Church, and the Rev. D. Hamilton, Naval Chaplain.

One emanates from the Church of England Temperance Society, the second from the National Temperance League, and the third from the Independent Order of Good Templars. They are very much alike. The only benefit other than that of the sale of liquor, which is supposed to accrue from the granting of the licence is that the merchant seamen and men of the Royal Navy might obtain additional refreshment. The burden of the three petitions is in each case that abundant provision is already made by the canteens and public houses now existing, and that no further accommodation of the kind is at all required.

These gentlemen, who do not see eye to eye in matters connected with religion, have cordially united to prevent the granting of additional facilities—or might I say additional temptations—for the consumption of intoxicating liquors by our men, the men of Her Majesty's Navy and Army. There are very wide divergencies of opinion in this matter, but I think all men of any education and refinement are unanimously of opinion that the consumption of intoxicating liquors should be limited. That is the opinion which these men, coming down at they do from the high vantage ground of total abstinence, desire to carry out—simple limitation. This application is for an adjunct licence. From the evidence (which is open to anyone who will take the trouble to look into it) an adjunct licence very often becomes a dominant licence; for the profits from the sale of intoxicating liquors are so much larger than that from food that the latter is absorbed; I understand that in the case of one adjunct licence granted not long ago near the Gaol, the refreshment cheaper than anywhere else in the town—at a merely nominal rate—provided that they drink. Anyone who lives at the west end of the town and has frequent occasion to pass along Queen's Road will know that scenes of a very undesirable character occur at these drinking houses. I trust that my fellow Justices and your Worship may be disposed to

feel some encouragement at the recent decision in the unanimous judgment of the House of Lords in the case Queen v. Wakefield. It seems to be just what Justices have been waiting for a great many years. It seems to be established on this appeal—that a case was appealed against again and again, from one tribunal to another, until at last in the House of Lords they have unanimously given the opinion that the public has no vested interest in his licence; so that in the case of an application for renewal, and especially in applications for new licences, they have a perfect right to refuse it. These gentlemen would have done much better to have come themselves before the Justices—it is allowed, I believe, (The Chairman: Yes)—and I think you would have been more influenced by hearing Mr. Bondfield and Mr. Hamilton than by me. But I trust the petitions will not suffer anything from the weak medium through which they are presented.

The Chairman then asked for remarks from the other Justices.

Mr. Wilcox thought it generally undesirable that licences should be granted in that neighbourhood, but the Justices had established a precedent (The Chairman: Not at all)—in granting a licence to a house in Pottinger Street. He was very sorry he was not present when that was done.

Mr. Hooper was rather in favour of granting the application. If that were an accurate proposition, that the fact of having one house would form a precedent for others, and that otherwise there would be none, if that were carried out from the beginning we should have none in the colony. As for these petitions, they did not carry much weight with him. One as from a body which was in for total abstinence, and the other as from a body which was in for a moderate use of liquor, could not be taken as a religious body, though this was not a religious question. If the local householders had expressed any opinion, that would carry weight.

Mr. Parkes pointed out that the man bore a good character and was backed by well-known people.

After a short consultation in private the Chairman stated that the Justices had decided to refuse the application on the grounds that it was undesirable to have a licensed house in that neighbourhood, and the situation chosen was unsuitable.

ASSAULT AT ARMS AT THE CITY HALL.

Last night (27th inst.) the members of the Lorne Athletic Club, organized in connection with the A. & S. Highlanders, gave a very entertaining Assault-at-Arms in the Theatre Royal, City Hall. Before a fairly large audience, the long and varied programme opened with dumb-bell exercises followed by a series of difficult evolutions on the parallel bars by Mr. Sergeant Brown, Sergeant Thomas, Corporal McLaughlin, Privates McLachlan, Stewart, Fiddes, Alexander, and McLane. As this, as in the succeeding gymnastic feats, the performers exhibited dexterity and smartness that did both them and their instructor infinite credit. A turn with the gloves between two sturdy little drummers named Grantham and J. L. Sullivan was the next item, and the rounds were as warm as the atmosphere, though in the end Mr. J. L. Sullivan was not so successful as his Bostonian namesake. The next event, a rather tame bout at quarter-staff between Sgt. Dyer and Lee. Corp. Inglis, resulted in favor of the former. Sword exercises by a squad of well-set-up fellows came next, and were very well received, the men moving with the precision of a machine. Lieut. Grant met a worthy adversary with foil and dagger in Corp. McLaughlin, but won on the points. A rather one-sided though decidedly head-fought bout between Privates Stewart and Stanley left the latter an easy victor, and showed him to be probably one of the best heavy-weights of whom the Colony can boast. A dozen budding soldiers next gave a neat exhibition of physical drill, and were paid with loud plaudits. An exhibition on the vaulting horse brought the first part of the programme to a close.

On the commencement of the second part of the entertainment a number of very creditable feats on the horizontal bar were performed by six of the men, concluding with a striking tableau, in which the two clubs, arranged themselves in a pyramid on and about the bar. A singling combat which followed was evenly contested by Col. Sgt. Brown and Sgt. Dyer, but was interrupted by what the programme facetiously terms a "melee"—half a dozen men rushing in upon the combatants, giving them, Whitechapel, and hustling them off the stage. Several pretty tricks with suspended rings were shown by four of the men, who raised themselves into most difficult positions and seemed quite at home on the rings. A squad of men under Sgt. Major Williamson then went through the new bayonet drill, which seems to consist almost entirely of thrusts and lunges, without much attempt at defence, at any rate in that part of it shown on the stage. A light-weight boxing match between Stewart (another of 'em) and McLaughlin was very briskly contested. Both were active and in good condition, but McLaughlin was not strong in the defence, and Stewart welled him in every round. Fiddes and Stewart (the heavy-weight boxer) showed the capabilities of the bayonet fixed to the rifle in a very interesting manner. The impression that it is a particularly clumsy defence, and there was much wild lunging that would be very fatal in active service. The next item, a horripole by the second Sullivan, was very pretty, his time and stepping being faultless. After a "mounted combat" between two fierce knights on fiery untamed steeds of the drapery persuasion, the evening closed with a realistic representation of life on active service. A platoon of soldiers, two sentries, and a sergeant were seen in a very realistic manner, and of course it is spoiled by the trees. After prospecting around and little the sleepers are quietly round and preparations are made. Then a lot of blank cartridge is fired, several heroes fall, and reinforcements arrive, with a piper. The piper turns the day, and the scene closes amidst strains of "Conquering Hero."

The evening's pleasure was added to by the numerous selections performed by the slightly more numerous contingent from the Regimental band, under Conductor Hill, and by the very amusing parodies of the contests with which Clowns McLaughlin and McLane enlivened the intervals.

The Club gave a *matinee* this afternoon, and will appear for the last time (this trip) to-morrow evening, when smoking will be allowed.

THE CAZEWITCH AND THE CHINESE.

The Cazewitch, with his brother Prince George of Greece and suite, arrived at Hankow on the 18th inst. He had been expected to arrive on the 15th, but as that day was the anniversary of the death of a great emperor, on which day the mandarin to *fu*, as they call it, were made, no salutes could be fired, no music played, and no banquet given, it was arranged between the two parties that the arrival should be delayed till the 19th. The festivities organized by the Chinese, and by the Russian community were very gorgeous. Among the presents, besides a magnificent silver service, there were two heavy ebony case-carriers with all manner of scenes of Chinese life carved in ivory for presentation to

the Cazewitch, and a massive pagoda in *cloisonné* work and gold for Prince George of Greece. After a two days stay the royal party left for Japan. It had been expected that they would pay a flying visit to Shanghai, but that arrangement was not carried out. The correspondence of the *N. C. Daily News* says that the most instructive and valuable lesson of the whole visit is the difference in the mental attitude of the natives at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, four years ago, the visit of the Grand Duke later on, and last night (20th). Perfect friendliness has taken the place of rudeness and stone throwing. The difference most undoubtedly is due to the action of the officials. The eye of the public is always fixed on the face of the mandarin; an almost imperceptible tremor of his eyelids gives his subordinates the cue for action. On this occasion the signs of respectful reception were given most unequivocally; popular report at last recognized the fact of the presence of a prince of sovereign rank by brulion it about that the Viceroy had telegraphed to the Taugli Yamch to know what term he was to use to refer to himself in addressing the Cazewitch. He could scarcely style himself "Your vassal," and yet his visitor was of imperial rank. With the truth of the report we have nothing to do; the possibility and fact of the report is the emphatic point. It was a foreign prince, not a foreign devil who received the Viceroy and partook of his hospitality in return. At the Viceroy's banquet an imperial chair, decked with yellow and borne by eight men was prepared for the Cazewitch, whilst Prince George of Greece, probably as visiting less officially, had only a green chair with four bearers. A few more such lessons, learnt at a convenient distance of time after a war, will do a vast deal to draw not only the diplomat but the people of China into the comity of nations, and to prevent causes of war in the future.

REPORT OF THE CHINA MERCHANTS' STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

For the XVI Year of Kuang Hsu.

The present is the 17th annual Report. This year, owing to the failure to renew the agreement with Messrs. Butterfield & Swire and Jardine, Matheson & Co., freights and passages have been greatly reduced by competition. In a year of 13 months (including the intercalary month) there were received from these services about Tls. 1,850,000. It will be observed that no allowance has been made for depreciation of the vessels, the smallness of the profits in the case of this. In the Profit and Loss Account it will be seen that the total balance is about Tls. 744,000. In the Balance Sheet are items of about Tls. 615,000, "Foreign loans," representing balance still due to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank; about Tls. 93,000 due to our Government, and Tls. 300,000 to Insurance Companies. These will be paid off in instalments in spite of a bad year a dividend of 10 per cent as before, has been paid to shareholders, and a bonus, as before, awarded to the staff of the Company, whose exertions have been most faithfully rewarded.

Of 27 of the fleet, one, the *Fuyew*, was lost during the year at Ch'engshan, which diminished the insurance reserve by Tls. 60,000. The *Kiangpoo* was sold, lessening the total value of the fleet by her value, about Tls. 8,000. By command of the Taugli Yamch, the *Kuiling* was purchased, strengthening the total value of the fleet by Tls. 40,000. It now consists of 27 steamers, and its value, with the attendant property in wharves, jetties, godowns, &c., is Tls. 6,250,000. As no allowance has been made for depreciation of steamers, and the Shanghai southern godowns and land have been added to the real estate assets, the total value exceeds that during the preceding year by Tls. 155,000. A total dividend of 10 per cent was paid on the 1st day of the 3rd moon. Detailed statements in duplicate have been sent to the Viceroy, the Shanghai and Tientsin Customs Yards, and the Office of the Company at Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow, Foochow, Canton, and Hongkong, for the inspection of the shareholders.

(Signed) SHENG HSIUAN-KUANG.
" MA KIE-CHONG.
" SHIN KANG-BOO.

CANTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

CANTON, April 25th, 1891.

His Excellency Li Han-chang is certainly keeping up his reputation as the Jefferys of the age; not even his sable Majesty of Dahomey can hold a dark lantern to him in this line. There is some talk of his being a descendant of a Chinese, himself standing on the very brink of the black river, yet dealing a kind of back-hander to foreigners in pandering to the morbid appetites of the Hongkong community and serving up for their delectation, possibly to satisfy, varied fancies of blood; I allude to the "lingering, sliding process," on the bill of fare to-morrow at Kwowloon, of a woman, besides the decapitation of numerous other unfortunate.

No doubt this will draw a crowd, while at the same time it will serve the more practical purpose of showing the people the fact of the Viceroy's "own familiar friends." The programme, doubtless, will succeed to the letter before gratifying the blood-thirsty instincts of Hongkongites, in this 19th century of Christianity, crushing to witness and revel in the agonizing and cruel deaths of their own fellow creatures, one or two posthumously are arranged to be used, and pockets of the crowd as far as possible. This factory, as an element in the demoralization of the degraded foreigner, while being a source of pecuniary benefit to himself and surroundings, is one not likely to be lost sight of by the astute Viceroy. History gives us many instances of cruel tyrants and ignoble rulers of their fellow creatures, but I question if his pages contain anything more disgusting than a ruler, by every available agency, fostering gambling of all descriptions up to the hills, and then, as the day dawns, the most vicious policy follows, and the victims are ruthlessly and cruelly slaying his victims and prying their heads by the hundreds. For the special benefit of your enlightened colony, the brother of Shi "Gauk" created Blamack of China—is a villainous Nero, and reproducing the scenes of the Roman amphitheatre, and they certainly seem to take and be received with *clat*. In this connection, it is worth while noting another "wailing lottery deal," and another gigantic squeeze extended and widely perpetrated at the expense of the second-Wel-fing farmer established by his Excellency during his short-term of office, for the benefit of himself and Yamch harpies. When the history of the obscure Nanyang Shi family comes to be written, commencing from the time when by the efforts of the noblest character of the century, ("Chinese" Gordon) it was raised from obscurity, it will show such a streak of blood, cruelty, and treachery from beginning to *fu*, as will make even the Medici annals pale before it.

The dread Reaper has been particularly active here of late, the last to be mowed down being one of your most respectable and enterprising fellow citizens, Tok Kee, the owner of the *Pai*, and a whole fleet of launches. Undoubtedly the litigation worries, in connection with the *Pai*, and the vindictive policy of your most opposition Steamboat Company, were the cause of his untimely end.

No more he will trouble you—trouble you. It was my privilege many years since to enjoy the personal acquaintance of that prince of modern satirists, W. Shenck Gilbert, and I still retain agreeable reminiscences of pleasant evenings at the rooms near St. Clement Dane's and at the old Dramatic Club in Cecil Street, I purpose shortly resuming my old acquaintance with Sir Arthur Sullivan's clever collaborator, and asking him to give me a few hints in casting a new original topical opera entitled "The Dante of Death," specially for the benefit of Hongkong playgoers. It should take as well as "The Contrabandists," and I shall know how to place the characters. My old friend, the chairman of the H.K.C. and M. Steamboat Co., will have a part all to himself, which, to judge by his previous history, he will be proud, and very particular friends of the Devil's Own, including the C.C. Ralph, will likewise be assigned leading parts which should create startling, not to say edifying effects, more especially as they will carry in their hands scrolls of vellum—excited—containing the repudiated guarantees given the Hongkong Government. To give our great local talent a show, I should propose to place the scenery in the hands of the Hongkong Sketching Club, so that they might faithfully depict the beauties of the Companies' fleet, which all famous old "bones-shaker" to the fore and the "Kings" "at all, not forgetting the Eryle and its two observatory, with the owner as "look-out" man in full yachting costume, spray-plunged in hand, gazing on those "venerable hulls" opposite, which should teach him wiser lessons than can be gained from the moral study of the *Pai* case, as well as by a study of the treatment meted out to the employees of the Company, those who have contributed so much towards its prosperity. In the labour agitation, "life all over the world," the Company doesn't recognize the writing on the wall; it will be soon or late awakened. Begone such musing, and let us follow the old Kee to his final resting place on the Whampoa hills, close to where he old Tuck Lee (Russell & Co.'s) commodore, and that most genial and best of Chinamen, the Hon. Mr. Ho Ah Kee (Whampoa) of Singapore fame. Passing strange it is that in death the old Hongkong commodore classes should desire not to be divided.

Another fine and enlightened specimen of this class—Tok Kee—slung one time commodore of Jardine, Matheson & Co., I feel regret to hear, lying in a critical condition at Shanghai. No Chinaman, since China has been opened to foreign intercourse, has been truer to his foreign training under the late gifted Dr. Samuel Brown, and Dr. A. P. Happer; as the pioneer in China of foreign industries no Chinaman has done more to promote legitimate enterprise for the true benefit of his country, and the treatment accorded to him by Li Han-chang to favour his *prong*, that like-spittle hybrid Mah Kiang-shing, present Director of the China Merchants' Company, will always remain as proof in support of the Biblical command—put not your faith in man—mandarins or their promises. Take the instance of this China Merchants' Company, which the enterprise and resource of Tong King-sing created and brought to a prosperous and powerful position. Li Han-chang, having failed to get his pet, Ma Kie-tong, the Tootal-ship of Shanghai, owing to the obstructiveness and Court intrigue of one of the Viceroy's fellow townsmen, he found of one of the Viceroy's fellow townsmen, He-lung, who thereby foolishly incurred the Viceroy's wrath, this is the Mandarin whom the Viceroy of Canton recently denounced in connection with the proposed water-works—unconsciously crossed-fingered Tong King-sing out of the Directorship of the Company and placed his satellite Ma a soft chair in Tong King-sing's place. Now, what is the condition of this Company to-day under the guidance of Mr. Ma? The earnings of the Company in one year have gone down about two-thirds, and not only so, but the dividend of about Tls. 300,000, which was paid last year, has been reduced to about 100,000, and the yearly dividend of about 800,000, capital of Tls. 2,000,000, declared last year, have been wholly appropriated by Ma, under the authority of his official patron, to the "Shanghai Cotton Works," another abortion worked by this enter



LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A NATIVE contemporary in notifying the opening of the ten season at Tamsui, remarks that the prospects of the trade are not very promising this year.

We observe that Mr. José Augusto do Roxo has been officially recognised as vice-consul for Mexico at this port. Mexico has got a lot to be thankful for.

We note that Mr. Charles, British Consul at Chinkiang, goes home on a year's leave at the end of the present month. He will be relieved by Mr. A. Allen, from Amoy.

There is reported to be much sickness in Bangkok just now. Two Europeans have succumbed to cholera, and the *Gazette* says the Chinamen are dying off like flies.

The *Huipho* reports that an epidemic has made its appearance in Wuhu, to which many of the official class have succumbed, while deaths have been numerous among the lower classes.

The match for the Lawn Tennis Championship between W. H. Wallace and G. S. Coxon, which was to have taken place this afternoon (27th inst.), has been postponed owing to the former gentleman's indisposition.

The *Shen-hao* says that the Emperor will shortly review the Shen-chi camp and also the Peking naval forces, when the Krupp guns, quick-firing Gatlings, torpedoes, and electric search-lights will all be exhibited.

"Brownie's" statement that Mr. C. J. Holliday's *Sandwich* is "The Contrabandista" is a particularly good caricature of Governor des Vieux is a weak and contemptible falsehood. It was the best caricature of "Brownie" himself we have ever seen.

A YUNNAN correspondent writes to *L'Avanture du Tonkin* that a revolt has occurred in the province of Yunnan. The Viceroy has sent 2,000 men to quell the outbreak. He adds that there has not been a drop of rain all winter, and the opium crop has been completely lost.

The bodies of the nineteen men who were executed at Kowloon City ten days ago are buried on the spot, in three or four rough graves. Near by a sort of frail horizontal bar, made of bamboo, has been erected, and hanging therefrom, in a ghastly row, is a string of rude wooden cages, each containing a putrefying head.

We note that Messrs. Crofton and Hamilton are managing the "Ida Pol Rosa" Operatic Concert Company, now performing in Singapore. As these gentlemen engineered the Brownie-Petter combination, we presume that the projected visit of the American actress and Mr. Kyrie Hille to the Far East has either been delayed or abandoned.

The editors of several native newspapers in Dai Nippon have taken umbrage at the name *Empress of Japan* having been given to one of the Canadian Pacific Co.'s new steamers. They look upon it with a certain amount of suspicion that the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India aspires to become Empress of Japan!

A BRIEF telegram from Madrid is published in the Manila papers which implies that the \$100,000 paid by the Spanish Government for the "unstable" cruiser *Albatros* has been devoted to the purchase of a torpedo-boat of the same name. Another good thing for the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., presumably—if they will take any more orders from that quarter.

The Consular reports on the trade of Siam for 1890, says the *Bangkok Times*, show that there has been a marked improvement in the amounts of imports and exports, as compared with those of 1889. The excess of the total export of 1890 over that of 1889 amounts to \$5,400,000, while the excess of the total import is \$1,000,000, compared with those of the preceding year, show an increase of \$6,400,000.

The mortal remains of Capt. J. P. Hoyland, of the Steamboat Co.'s service, were interred in the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, on the 18th inst. in the presence of a large assemblage of mourners, which included the Hon. E. R. R. and many old residents of the colony, friends and the deceased. The service was read by the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, and singularly enough Capt. Hoyland was laid to rest alongside his old Macao friend, Professor Hart-Miller, sub-editor of this journal at the time of his death, nearly two years ago.

INTELLIGENCE from Shanghai, according to a native paper, is to the effect that rich deposits of iron and coal have been found in the prefecture of Cheh-Chow. It is now proposed to open up mines in the five districts of Fung Tai, Koa Ping, Yang Shu, Ling Chuen, and Shing Shan, in the Cheh-Chow prefecture. The local capitalists have reported the find to the provincial authorities, begging them to petition the Throne to sanction the forming of a company for the purpose of working the mines. The ones so pronounced to be superior to those from the Keping mines.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the North China Insurance Co., Limited, was held in Shanghai on April 20th. There was a large attendance of shareholders, and Mr. E. H. Lavers presided. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. H. Bell, the Report and Accounts presented were unanimously passed; and on the proposal of Mr. A. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Müller, Messrs. F. H. Bell, D. Brand, J. F. Seaman, A. R. Hoare, E. H. Lavers, W. D. Little, and A. G. Wood were elected directors for the ensuing year. Messrs. Augustus White and A. Burman were appointed auditors.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 18th inst.—The European foreman, viewers, overseers and others employed on the Railway and colliery works at Tongshan having demanded of the Directors the immediate arrest of the Cantonese who made the assault on Mr. Burns, and the demand not being complied with, they left the works on Sunday the 15th inst. and came to Tientsin, where they reported their grievances to the British Consul and claimed his protection and assistance. The Consul informed the men on Monday that he had already seen the Viceroy, who had sent up preceptory orders to arrest the ringleaders and bring them down to Tientsin. He also informed them that the Engineer-in-chief would be in Tientsin the following day and advised them to be ready to return with him to the works on Wednesday. Mr. Kinder did not turn up, however, and it was not till the 16th inst. that they received a telegram from the works stating that the five ringleaders had been arrested and sent down to Tientsin. The men, therefore, returned to the works by the first train on Friday the 17th. When they arrived they soon found that they had been deceived, for the Cantonese had not been arrested, but had been allowed to leave the place and were supposed to be on their way to Shanghai. Meanwhile the Colliery had been getting on quite well without the Europeans. What the upshot will be is very uncertain, but strained relations between the men and the directors of the works cannot be avoided. The wounded man is doing fairly well.

THE deaths in Hongkong for the first quarter of the present year totalled 1,341, or about 400 births. Amongst foreigners, singularly enough, the births and deaths ran a dead-heat—fifty each.

THE *Shanghai Mercury* learn that the local share-brokers are at last taking steps to form themselves into an association, by which some sort of understanding can be arrived at as to a uniform scale of commissions.

CHAM SING U and Wong Chung, who are charged with being concerned in the *Namoa* piracy, were again placed in dock at the Police Court on the 27th inst., and once more remanded (without any examination) the former for the seventh time and the latter for the fourth time. Justice seems pretty heavily noted in their cases.

The members of the Hongkong Choral Society gave their third and final representation of "The Contrabandista" at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Saturday night last. There was only a moderate attendance, but the performance was fairly successful throughout, the dancing of the *cachucha*, as on previous occasions, proving the most successful item in the bill of fare.

In consequence of the death of Capt. Hoyland, the popular skipper of the *Fathian*, the following changes have taken place in the commands of the Steamboat Company's vessels: Capt. Risby, of the *White Cloud*, takes command of the *Fathian*, Capt. Cruickshank, of the *Kiungchow*, is transferred to the *White Cloud*, and Mr. Webster, chief of the *Honani*, is promoted to the command of the *Kiungchow*.

The Seoul correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* states that "another party is shortly going to be made for Korea's mineral wealth. It is understood that quite a party is going to set out next month in search of that doubtful quarry; this time the expedition is going to be purely a Korean one, and will no doubt meet with the same success as the dozen or so similar ones, which he had seen start on the same errand his during time.

THERE is a good deal of grumbling and growling in China town just now owing to the complete water famine, which has been occurring there for some time. Hundreds of colliers are now being sent swimming around the well-dried diked brooks on the hill side out Pokuilum way, taking it in turns to fill their buckets, with the indispensable commodity as it were slowly through the soil. In this connection, a very important Government notification appears in our advertisement columns the other day.

A YOUNG Englishman named H. M. Pugh—a stranger to Yokohama—attempted to end his life by taking a dose of laudanum at the Club Hotel, Yokohama, on the 13th inst. At an early hour the attention of the servants was attracted by sounds from the room in which Pugh was sleeping, and after access had been gained it was discovered he had taken a dose of laudanum, two bottles being found by his bedside. Dr. Wheeler was called in and administered eleven Pugh was afterwards committed for trial by Assistant Judge Troup, at the British Consular Court.

We regret to learn that Mr. J. Cradock, Acting Chief Inspector of Police, is resigning his position on the ground of ill-health. Mr. Cradock has been about as much active work as any member of the Force, and during his 24 years service he has been at least twice wounded whilst protecting the leges. We forgive Cradock for having on two occasions led us up like a lamb to the slaughter, to "The Retreat," and are certain that, knowing what he certainly does know, he will remember us as a confession in the happy days in the past future. "Ten better!"

A ST. GEORGE'S BALL was held at Shanghai on the night of the 23rd inst. The *N. C. Daily News* reports that 200 quarts of Pomme and Greno were consumed, likewise a barrel of beef weighing 15 lbs. of which only the bones remained next morning, so that the guests must have had an enjoyable time. Way didn't our contemporary, after throwing all canons of good taste to the winds, also state how many whiskeys and sodas were drunk, and give a lot more delicate information in the same direction? Journalism must surely be in dire straits in Shanghai, when the assumed leading newspaper gets so low down as to count the bottles of champagne consumed at a public ball and to publish the figures in its report of the celebration.

The manager of the Pungion Company, Mr. Blaney, the only reliable man that has ever occupied that responsible position so far as we can make out, wires as follows:—"Gubun, a fine prospect; sample three ounces of gold have been shipped. Wait for my letter of to-day (April 25th). Mills are idle for want of water." The Secretary of the Pungion Company (Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin) explains that this telegram indicates that the trial crushing of Gubun reef soil has been most satisfactory, and that a sample is being forwarded here to show the good quality of the gold. Visitors of Pongion's never-to-be-forgotten paper-weight of the pure metal, extracted from Pungion ore—but there, what's the use of dragging out comic scenes from the played-out comedies of long ago! If any decent sort of gold has been found at this most visionary and disappointing of modern *El Dorado* so much the better for the unfortunate shareholders; if not—well, *makas*. The milling referred to, says Mr. Gourdin, "is at Jalk, and the stoppage was only for a temporary, and it probably due to some accident to the water race." We shall probably see Pungion's booming up amongst the skies within the next six months, if all tales we hear be true.

It is reported from Takow (South Formosa), says a correspondent of our Shanghai morning newspaper, that the Taisai implicated in the recent outbreak here to show the good quality of the gold, visitors of Pongion's never-to-be-forgotten paper-weight of the pure metal, extracted from Pungion ore—but there, what's the use of dragging out comic scenes from the played-out comedies of long ago! If any decent sort of gold has been found at this most visionary and disappointing of modern *El Dorado* so much the better for the unfortunate shareholders; if not—well, *makas*. The milling referred to, says Mr. Gourdin, "is at Jalk, and the stoppage was only for a temporary, and it probably due to some accident to the water race." We shall probably see Pungion's booming up amongst the skies within the next six months, if all tales we hear be true.

A GENTLEMAN who visited the Tatum water-works on the 26th inst. informs us that, to his unprofessional eye, "there didn't seem as much water left as would keep a coolie bailing half an hour." May be the Colonial Chaplain will use his influence with Tatum Pluvius, or whoever is the celestial Water Authority, since our mundane official can't work the crane.

FOR expensive tea (China can run Caylon pretty close when she tries. The firm of Tokmakoff, Molokoff, & Co., a month before the recent visit of the *Czarwicz* to Hankow, sent camporides into the country to get this season's tea, so as to be able to present exquisite samples, and the young leaf picked thus early had turned out so satisfactory that some of this tea was found at Tis, 3,500 the picul, or nearly 26 the pound.

ON the 27th inst. Inspector Stanton, with a party of Police, arrested Chan Aping and Li Achung on a warrant charging them with having committed murder and burglary at a village named Sa Ching, in the province of Kwangtung, on the 21st July, 1890. The prisoners were arrested in the Kurn-hung rating house, Centre Street, whither they had been decoyed. The prisoners denied the charge, and the case was remanded for a week.

AT the Police Court on the 27th inst., before Mr. Wise, Chin Lai was charged on remand with committing a piracy, with others not in custody, on the 16th inst., upon a boat near Cape Collinson. Inspector Stanton gave evidence of the prisoner's arrest at Tok A Wan on the 19th inst., by a body of Police, and proof of his identity by the crew of the pirated boat closed the evidence for the prosecution. Mr. Wise committed the accused for trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

THE German steamer *Pollux*, Captain H. Hellmors, seems to be a marked ship with our French neighbours. More than once she has had serious trouble with the Custom authorities at Signig, the captain getting out of court with several hundreds of dollars less than when he entered, "all owing to Chinese members of his crew attempting to run a few balls of opium. The *Pollux*, on her last trip, a week ago, again got into trouble owing to some of the crew smuggling four small tins of opium in a paint pot, the smugglers hoping that the smell of the paint would overpower that of the drug. The drug was spotted, and the captain mulcted in the sum of \$300. The latter has got level with John Chinaman this trip though by stopping their wages and giving them notice to make themselves scarce.

A LITTLE with ancient history was broken when, about a fortnight ago, Mr. John Velge died at his residence in Malacca, where he was one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of Straits residents. He was over 91 years of age, and his recollections of the early years of this century were very curious. He could tell of the blowing up of the Dutch fort in Malacca in 1807, when the English, by exchange, took over that settlement. He was a sailor, and owned small sailing vessels for many years, making voyages to different parts in India, Sumatra, and Java, towards the beginning of this century, of which places he used to relate very entertaining anecdotes. He made a considerable amount of money and retired, living for some time in Singapore, where he was very hospitable. For many years he had lived in Malacca, where he was very much honoured and respected.

THE HAPPY BANKER.
Who is the happy banker? Who is he
That every junior clerk should wish to be?
It is the careful clerk whose strong bent
Is money-making—heaping cent on cent—
Who, doomed to go in early, shine or rain,
And at the office late at night remain,
"Turns his necessity to glorious gain."
Well brushed his hair; spotless his cuffs and collar;
Sings like a bird but works as hard as dollars.
Of conversation has an easy flow.
The cheerful "yes" the firm but courteous "no";
A fluent pen, content, concise and clear;
To all men confidence a ready ear;
Capacity for cocktails and the power
To eat, drink, think, read, write, talk by the hour.
He knows all men, all women, and their price,
Can fix them and their business in a trice.
And the "common drudge" twist man and man,
Draws from them all the interest he can.
Then as he rises in the world he learns
To feel the public pulse—the great concerns
Of many a mighty empire and its doom
Are settled off-hand in his private room.
Who, whether dining at a Lord Mayor's feast
Or banking dollars in the "Gorgeous East,"
Weighs with reason at the Council board,
Or frolicking upon the grassy sward,
Keeps his mind open and his temper cool
And lives for ever by the golden rule.
This is the happy banker, this is he
That every junior clerk should wish to be.
—N. C. Daily News.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alms Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—

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THE Hongkong Rifle Association for the Long Range Cup and Spoon was held on Saturday last. There were seven competitors. Mr. Ford won the 600 yards spoon and the Cup. Lt. Tyler R.N. winning the 800 yards spoon. The following were their scores:—

Name	600 Yds.	800 Yds.	Total
Mr. C. Ford	10	10	20
Mr. Tyler, R.N.	10	10	20

A SPECIAL meeting of the "elders" of the Union Church was held this evening (28th inst.) under the auspices of the *China Mail* for the purpose of passing a resolution to petition the Government to add something to the "screw" of the Rev. Mr. Bondfield, for his alleged valuable services in reading the burial service over some of the naval and military dead. Mr. Murray Bain, J.P., was to move the motion, and the other religious members, or some of them, were to smile blandly and acquiesce. We haven't heard how this little burlesque on religion terminated, but if we were a member of the Union Church—which, thank heaven we are not—and had been present at this insult to the common intelligence of the colony and to the true worship of God, we should have proposed as an amendment that the proposer and second of this most contemptible exhibition of religious intolerance should be treated to a round dance on the breech—that being the only place with such persons where this most necessary fluctuation would be likely to have any appreciable effect. Perhaps we may have more to say about this Pharisaical trickery to-morrow.

OPPOSITION, which is usually believed to be the very life of trade, is, we understand, about to make itself manifest on the Hongkong-Vancouver route by way of Japan. Captain Marshall, late commander of the renowned tea clipper *Stirling Castle*, is, we are informed, coming here in the course of a day or two to assist in superintending the affairs of the appropriation—the *Abyssinia*, *Batavia*, *Parthia*, and *Zambesi* which will fly the flag of the Union Pacific Company. Vancouver is not, it seems, the Canadian destination of these boats, but they will stop very near there, namely at Tacoma, calling en route at Yokohama, Kobe and Victoria B.C. The cruises of this formidable appropriation to the Pacific are, we are informed, to be made by the *Empress of the Canadian Pacific* Railway, and, we are told, will be sufficient for us in mentioning one or two of the salient reasons. Firstly, the rapid and probably still further development of the trans-Pacific trade; secondly, the fact that a dispute arose between the C. P. Company and Messrs. Pierce of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, Glasgow, who were the first to tender for the construction of two of the three *Empresses*, which they were willing to build for the round sum of £200,000. This figure was beyond the P.C.'s limits and the order for the three new ships was promptly cancelled with the result that the *Empress of the Canadian Pacific* Company, who undertook to complete the three vessels for two-thirds of the sum. This has engendered a good deal of ill-feeling between the rival firms—hence the competition. The new Company's first chartered steamer, the *Zambesi*, will sail hence for Tacoma via north coast about Thursday. The Agents of the new Company here are Messrs. Gibb, Livingstone & Co.

LOSS OF THE "HOLME EDEN"

On Saturday evening last a telegram was received from Shanghai by Messrs. Gibb, Livingstone & Co. stating that the steamer *Holme Eden* was a total wreck on Chusan Island (close to Shanghai). Nothing was said as to crew or cargo. She was a vessel of 1,451 tons, commanded by Captain Ample, and was owned in London by Messrs. Ample Brothers, and came with the vessel from Antwerp with a general cargo. After anchoring some 300 tons here she proceeded on the 18th for Shanghai, taking nothing from Hongkong. The cargo was insured.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

A POINTER FOR PASSENGERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
SIR—As an occasional visitor to Canton I have been accustomed to use the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s line. Butterfield & Swire's boat. I did so a few days ago, and it cost me \$3 for my fare and as much for two plain meals. Last night I returned by the new Chinese-owned steamer *Tai-on*, and I think many would be grateful to know that, although the vessel is not yet in ship-shape order internally I had better accommodation, much more kindly courtesy and attention, and infinitely better—how do you call it?—chow. On the other hand, the fare was \$2.50. Henceforth the *Tai-on* is the vessel which will receive the exclusive patronage of Yours truly,

Hongkong, 24th April, 1891.

THE GOVERNOR'S SUCCESSOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."
SIR—Considering the vital importance of the questions pending, which have had to face the light through the energetic instrumentality of our unofficial representatives, I venture to suggest that the rate-payers should memorialize the Secretary of State, so that Mr. Francis Fleming should be requested to return immediately to take up the reins of government, for during his tenure of administration his urbanity, courtesy, conciliation and tact were conspicuous to a degree, and he likewise possessed the rare facility of leading men, with a thorough grasp of the true position and situation of local matters. The deadlock which now exists to the serious detriment of the rate-payers he never would have allowed to arise, and it seems imperative that the agent and pressing requirements of the colony should not be left in certainly no dissatisfied hands, possessing none of the above-mentioned and I venture to think, essential qualifications for an administrator.

Your obedient servant,

Hongkong, 27th April, 1891.

Every man has a right to his opinion and to express it when it is not libellous, and we do not in the least object to "Audax" saying a good word in our columns for Mr. Francis Fleming; but with all his excellent qualities, which the colony has frankly and readily recognised, Mr. Fleming is a weak administrator and is scarcely the man required at the helm of affairs in this colony during the present constitutional crisis. Sir William des Vaux was not incapacitated from hard work by uncertain health, we should desire no better man for Governor of this colony. He is admittedly of a headstrong and obstinate disposition, and in the Military Contribution question has taken up a position that is certainly incomprehensible to those acquainted with him; generally enlightened and liberal ideas; but he is also a sound and straightforward statesman, who has times out of number practically evinced the interest he took in the welfare of Hongkong. We have every respect for Mr. Fleming, but we do not want him as Governor; some one who has had experience in Australia, and who will not be a mere mouthpiece of the Colonial Office.—Ed. *Hongkong Telegraph*

SUPREME COURT.
IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before Mr. E. J. Akeroyd, Acting Puisne Judge.)
April 29th.

YU SUI WAN AGAIN.
Yu Man, contractor, sought to obtain payment of \$566.40 and costs for which amount he had obtained judgment against Yu, Sui Wan in a suit heard in December, 1889. Mr. Hastings appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Caldwell represented two Chinese women who claimed certain shares which should be deducted from the amount.

Mr. Hastings recapitulated the facts of the case, and said, that since judgment was granted the defendant had left Hongkong, and Mr. Ewens had acted for him here, settling claims against him, etc. This claim had never been settled, defendant saying it was unjust. On October 21st, 1890, a prohibitory order was issued on Mr. Ewens, and 700 Green Island Cement Co.'s shares in his hands were taken out by plaintiff for the sale of the shares and the recovery of the debt, but it was not put into effect, and nothing further was done then. On March 12th, 1891, a summons was taken out by the claimants asking that the prohibitory order on Mr. Ewens be annulled. Another summons was then taken out by the plaintiff, practically the same as before, asking why a sufficient number of Green Island Cement Co. shares in the hands of Mr. Ewens and belonging to defendant should not be sold to realise \$79, the amount of judgment debt and costs. Then an order was made by the Court that the claimants should pay the amount into Court.

Mr. Ewens, called by Mr. Caldwell stated that he originally held 700 shares on joint account with Yu Sui Wan, but all in the name of witness. By defendant's direction, he afterwards held some in trust for Mr. Tung, and some for Wong Tong Ko (the Chinaman), but none for defendant. He did not know of any previous transaction or consideration to blur this transfer.

Cross-examined—Witness had no knowledge that Yu Sui Wan left the colony to escape a warrant for his arrest on a charge of forgery. There was an action by Yu Sui Wan against him, and a writ of foreign attachment against his goods. Witness did not know whether the action brought against him had anything to do with the transfer of the shares. After the trial, defendant wrote to witness directing the sale of some of the shares, as he was "hard up."

His lordship thought the question arose how far such letters could be evidence against the claimants.

The claimants were then called and gave evidence at some length.

Mr. Caldwell then addressed the Court in support of the claim of Ho Tung and Wong Tong Ko, contending that the transfer of the shares to them was a bona fide transaction for valuable consideration, and not at all designed to elude the law. Yu Sui Wan had all along shown a desire to meet all just claims.

His lordship, in giving judgment, after briefly reviewing the facts admitted, decided that the defendant had made every effort to meet all claims through Mr. Ewens, and that with a little more vigilance Yu Man, the plaintiff, might have secured the money in Mr. Ewens hands and given his debt. As to the transfer, that was not shown to be anything but genuine. The letter from defendant after the transfer, directing sale, was not evidence. The consideration received in return was at a later date, but that was satisfactorily explained by defendant's mother and Ho Tung, who seemed trustworthy. The case might have been settled easily out of Court, but his lordship had to decide on the facts and the law; judgment for claimants, with costs.

OUR OPTIMISTIC GOVERNOR.

REPLY TO MR. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

MR. F. H. May, private secretary to H.E. Sir G. W. des Vaux, forwards the following "copy of some remarks which His Excellency had intended to make in Council"—presumably at the last meeting. We commend their careful perusal, withholding our own comments for the present:—

WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY.

Before proceeding to the Orders of the Day I deem it right to refer to a letter which I received a few days ago from the Unofficial members, informing me of their intention to memorialize the Secretary of State to the effect that the colony is not now in a position to pay the increased salaries of officials which recently passed the Council, and requesting me to notify the Secretary of State by telegraph of this intention, and of their wish that he should withhold his sanction of these increased salaries until their memorial shall be received.

In reply I caused a letter to be addressed to the Unofficial members to the effect that I hoped within a few days to be able to inform them of the course which I should pursue after giving this important matter my full consideration.

In reply to a further communication on the subject from the "Honourable" Mr. Ryley, I informed him of the substance of the grounds on which I felt bound to decline sending such a telegram, and I now proceed to state them in full.

As to the first reason, viz: that from a despatch already received from the Secretary of State it may be expected that the decision on the subject of salaries will be decided very shortly, and that therefore any telegram of the kind would arrive too late, it is unnecessary to say anything further, but as to the other—the second reason—further information may seem to be required.

It is scarcely necessary for me to remind you that during the year 1889 there was appointed a Committee of the Council for the purpose of enquiring into the salaries of the public officers, and that Committee, composed (with the exception of the Chairman) exclusively of Unofficial members, eventually recommended unanimously a large increase of the salaries of a great many officers, and voted generally in accordance with that recommendation, but on a different principle specially authorised by the Secretary of State, were in October last, during my absence from the colony, unanimously passed by this Council in view of the apparent unanimity of the Council that these increases were only a matter of justice to the officers concerned, and in view of the fact that the Secretary of State had not disapproved the principle of a general increase, there would seem to be a great probability that his lordship will sanction at least a part of the recommended

increase in the majority of cases, and I think it not at all unlikely that some of the officers concerned have made arrangements in anticipation of this sanction, and would have ground for very serious complaint if those who have made to them what was practically a conditional promise should, by now deprecating the sanction of the Secretary of State, endeavour to preclude the condition which is alone required to render that promise binding. As the Estimates, which contain these increased salaries are only voted for once a year, the Council will, of course, be at full liberty to reconsider the position, with reference to the Estimates of 1891, and public officers will understand that, though the salaries may be fixed at a given amount for this year, it does not follow that they will remain at that figure for next or any subsequent year, should the circumstances of the Colony require a reduction. But for this year I regard their remuneration, in so far as action on the part of the Council is concerned, as definitely fixed, and any attempt to lessen it now, would seem to me something very like the repudiation of a contract. And I, of course, use here the word "contract" not in its strict legal sense, but in the sense of moral obligation. It is, I trust, needless for me to express my utter disbelief that the honourable member who originated, or those who who supported, this movement would have had any part in it, if they had regarded it in this light; and yet I am bound to say that the extremely ludicrous picture which the honourable member has painted of the condition and prospects of the Colony were a correct one, there would be at least ground for arguing the existence of the condition which would justify—I will not say repudiation—but breach of a legal contract, viz: inability to pay equally binding obligations to all. I am sure that the honourable member had no intention of this kind, and I gather that his object was simply to show our inability to pay these increased salaries in permanence in the absence of additional taxation. But whatever may have been the honourable member's intention, the effect likely to be created by his speech if unanswered, is, first, beyond this; and as I regard injury to the credit of the Colony is likely to inflict greater loss on the colonists than that involved in these increased salaries, even when coupled with the increased Military Contribution, I have deemed it my duty to examine this subject calmly and deliberately. In its various bearings with a view to ascertaining whether the picture of our position as drawn by the honourable member is a correct one, and I must now make a short further trespass upon your time in the endeavour to present to you the result of that examination.

In approaching the subject of the honourable member's speech, I am bound to bear testimony to its ability, and to admit that the painstaking research of which it bears evidence, has brought forward facts well worthy of reflective consideration; but on the other hand, as the result of my examination of the question, I find it impossible to regard it otherwise than as the address of an advocate, which, to say the least, makes the most of the facts adduced in favour of his view, and entirely ignores all those which tell in favour of the other side. In order to heighten to effect of the gloomy picture which (whatever his motive) it has pleased him to draw, he has juxtaposed a contrast between the present (as he would seem to allege) abject position of the colony, with that portrayed by my so-called "brilliant" despatch of October 1889, and he has unthinkingly conveyed the inference, though he does not actually say so, that the despatch of that date was incorrect. In one passage, if correctly reported, he alleges himself to be almost quoting my very words when he says that I referred to a vast commerce "in a healthy state of progress, with prosperity extraordinary, and prospects magnificent." Now any one hearing or reading these words "prospects magnificent" (which by-the-by I never used) as contrasted with his subsequent representation of the depressed condition of the Colony, would infer that I had dealt largely in prophecy as regards the immediate future, and that such prophecy had been falsified by the event, whereas this is not only not true but in one instance, I respect the exact opposite of the truth. I indeed referred to a trade "as apparently in a healthy condition of progress, despite the restrictive measures against Chinese in the United States and Australia, and the decline of the tea trade; the full effects of which I mentioned as having not then been fully felt—and this reference I still presently give reasons for believing correct—while I expressed no doubt that such would be the case in time, become more valuable than it was then, and that I have still stronger reason to believe so, but with reference to the immediate future, I most distinctly expressed doubts whether speculation had not unduly raised the prices both of shares and of land, and plainly intimated the possibility of reaction and consequent distress to all those who had been speculating beyond their means. So far from partaking largely in prophecy, whether about the immediate or distant future, my despatch dealt almost exclusively with facts, one of which in so far as I know, has ever been impugned, and the only passage, other than those referred to in which the future was touched upon at all was the following:—"As far as is known all, or nearly all, of these companies, especially those whose field of operations is Hongkong, have good some of them excellent, prospects of success." And even here I am not expressing my own opinion, but (as is shown from the words "as far as is known") the opinion of the community, and that I was entitled to infer from the prices of the

at a heavy discount, is extremely insignificant as compared with the total paid-up capital of local joint stock companies, which are at a premium, and for the most part at a very high premium.

Taking up the list of local enterprises published in the daily journals I find that the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, with a paid-up capital of \$3,300,000, backed as it now is by a reserve fund of over a million sterling, are worth now in the aggregate about \$28,000,000. The shares of the two local Fire Insurance Companies, with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$800,000, are quoted in the one case at 500 and in the other at 500 per cent. premium. The shares of the local Marine Insurance Companies, with aggregate capital of \$1,350,000, are quoted at nearly 300 per cent., 150 per cent., and 100 per cent. premium, respectively. Carrying my eye down the list I find the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company shares (with a paid-up capital of 13 million dollars) are at 98 per cent. premium, while those of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, on which an aggregate of \$1,000,000 is paid-up, are now worth over \$1,500,000; the China and Manila Steam Navigation Company's shares, with paid-up capital of \$1,750,000, are at about 150 per cent.; and the \$1,600,000 paid-up capital of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company is worth \$2,600,000. Similarly the shares of seven other companies (China Sugar Company, Hongkong Land Investment Company, Société des Charbonnages du Tonkin, Hongkong Hotel Company, Humphreys Estate and Finance Company, A. S. Watson & Co., Hongkong Ice Company) principally owned in Hongkong, on which was originally paid \$6,223,000, are now worth \$12,940,000, which, added to the figures representing the paid-up capital and present market value of the Hongkong Bank and the same companies, leaves a total of \$22,010,000 paid in respect of shares which are now worth \$57,775,000. This, however, gives only a partial view of the situation. A more complete view is furnished by the following statements and figures supplied to me by the Registrar of Public Companies:—

"At the end of the year 1887 there were 26 public companies whose shares were dealt in the Hongkong market, having an aggregate paid-up capital of \$26,233,000 and the market value of which was \$46,870,125. In 1888 three of these companies went into liquidation and a fourth reduced its capital by \$175,000, and at the end of the same year the 23 remaining companies represented a paid-up capital of \$25,153,000 and a market value of \$48,355,325, or an increase in the market value of the 23 companies for the year 1888 of \$2,021,200. In the same year the shares of 13 additional companies were placed on the Hongkong market, representing a paid-up capital of \$1,709,640 and a market value at the end of 1888 of \$5,596,000, giving an increase for the year of 10 companies, \$2,634,640 in paid-up capital and \$7,081,000 in market value. Thus at the end of 1888, there were 36 companies, with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$26,862,640, the market value of which was \$53,951,325. Two of the companies (with a total paid-up capital of \$200,000) are now being wound up, but the aggregate values of the shares of the remaining 34 amount at present to \$64,421,050 showing an increase (after deducting \$1,715,000 net increase to capital) of \$8,874,735 as compared with December, 1888. In addition to the above 34 companies there are 20 new companies registered since December, 1888, whose shares are dealt in the Hongkong market. The total paid-up capital of these 20 companies is \$13,631,310 and the aggregate market value of the same capital is \$27,775,000, showing a depreciation in the value of the new companies of \$12,810 as compared with the paid-up capital. A further analysis shows that of these 20 companies the aggregate market value of the shares of 9 of them is \$4,800,940 in excess of their total paid-up capital, while in 14 of the 20 there is a depreciation to the extent of \$1,622,750 below the paid-up capital. Of the 14 latter companies 7 are new companies engaged in purely local business, the shares of which are depreciated below paid-up capital to the extent of \$506,000 only, and the remaining 7 companies, whose shares show a depreciation of \$1,116,750 below paid-up capital, are companies whose businesses or enterprises are situated entirely outside the colony. There are now therefore 54 public companies with a paid-up capital of \$44,074,950 and a market value of \$77,200,550, as against 26 companies in 1887, with a paid-up capital of \$26,233,000 and a market value of \$46,870,125, a paid-up capital of \$18,867,690 and a market value of \$55,155,225, showing an increase in the last 31 years of 28 companies, \$17,841,900 paid-up capital, and \$30,326,425 market value."

Compared therefore either with what may be called the figures of special success, or with the figures of all companies successful or unsuccessful, the figures of failure, or threatening failure, are puny indeed, and it is to be borne in mind that the present is a time when, owing to losses in speculation, all such securities are probably under their normal value. Now notwithstanding the fact that the shares of most of these companies were in 1889 driven up by speculation at a price considerably higher than at present, I venture to think that from the point of view of the share market, there is nothing pointing to any serious or permanent decline of prosperity; indeed after a careful survey of the position at this critical period I believe that any competent and impartial judge would say with confidence that the business of the colony in so far as it is conducted by joint stock companies is generally in a very sound condition.

Happily there are indications pointing in the same direction from several other quarters. Though the absence of returns renders it impossible to speak with certainty as regards Exports and Imports, it is satisfactory to find that the shipping statistics of last year point to an increasing rather than a decreasing trade. For according to the recent report of the Harbour Master, the tonnage of vessels entering and clearing from Hongkong reached in 1890 the enormous figure of 134 million tons—or considerably higher than those of any former year and exceeding by 1,000,000 tons those of 1889. It would thus appear that my anticipation of the year being a year to be correct, and that trade in other directions is compensating for the deficit caused by the decaying tea export, and the stoppage of emigration to Australia and the United States. And while on the subject of Emigration, I may mention that the accounts recently received of the condition of the Chinese in Mexico are so favourable, that if they should be confirmed I think it only right that the Government should encourage the emigration thither which it is desirous to conduct from Hongkong. If it is as I am informed, that Mexico will welcome all the free Chinese which can be sent there, I shall expect that in no long time the trade which will spring up with that rich country—rich I mean in its soil and its minerals—will not only equal but surpass all that has been lost by the restrictive laws in the United States and Australia. But, however, this may be, the correctness of the indication from tonnage that the volume of trade is increasing is again confirmed only the other day when I began the explanation of this question, by the statistical report of the Chinese Customs for the last year (for a copy of which I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Robert Hart) and the local Commissioner. Though I have not had time as yet to examine carefully all the figures, it suffices for my purpose to take the figures showing the value of the

general trade between China and Hongkong which are Taels 127,358,507 for 1888, Taels 118,046,581 for 1889, and Taels 125,844,907 for 1890. Thus the value of our trade with China actually increased last year by more than Taels 7,000,000 as compared with 1888 and by over Taels 7,000,000 (or about £1,750,000 sterling) as compared with 1889. As also indicating that the volume of trade is not decreasing I may mention that from a return furnished by the Registrar-General, it appears that in the first three months of this year 174 Chinese shops were closed and 235 opened, showing a favourable balance, and though owing to my being unable to get the similar return for former years I do not count this balance as proof of increase, I think the figures at least suggest the probability that Chinese trade is not falling off.

Turning now to the matter of Bank deposits I see as little reason for alarm or despondency. Having requested information on the subject from the four British Banks in the colony, the answers obtained from three of them show that as regards them, there has been not a decrease, but an increase of deposits to the extent of over \$800,000. The only one of the four which shows a decrease, the amount of which is not stated, is the Bank under the management of the honourable member, who in replying to my letter as Manager reiterates his statement made as member of Council in respect of the decrease of "millions of dollars," but in this instance limits it to Chinese banks. Now on this matter of Chinese banks I have made enquiries from high authorities, banking and others, as well as from the Registrar-General. The estimate thus received is considerably in amount, but I am most inclined to that of Mr. Wei Yuk, Comptroller of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, not only because it is the result of I understand, of careful enquiries at each of the Banks referred to but because it represents a mean between the extreme estimates on either side. According to his calculation the aggregate decrease of deposits in the Chinese banks as compared with 1889 is about \$1,000,000, the figures being \$6,000,000 for 1889 and \$5,000,000 for this year. Reducing from this the \$800,000 increase in the British banks, there is left \$200,000—so that there requires the large decrease of \$1,800,000 to make up the same unaccountable quarter to make up the two millions which would be the minimum amount to justify the honourable member's indefinite statement as to "millions" of decrease.

I should mention that the Registrar General in forwarding his estimate of Chinese bank deposits accompanies it with the statement that despite all losses, money is at present plentiful among the Chinese, and that the rate of interest among them just now is 20 cents per month per \$100—this being scarcely over 3 per cent. per annum and is even lower than the rate among Europeans. Now as regards land, which the honourable member says has fallen greatly in value, I do not doubt that as regards a considerable area of the less valuable land of the colony, there has been considerable depreciation by comparison with the inflated prices of 1889, but I question whether there has been any depreciation at all as regards what is of incomparably greater importance, viz.: the large area of specially valuable land in Victoria. For though a seller of such land might not as readily obtain the same price as in 1889, I have reason to doubt whether, unless under exceptional circumstances, the price to a buyer would be any less now than then. On this point I will read what is said to me by a gentleman, whose position is one likely to render him specially well acquainted with the subject:—"The value of Marine and Inland Lots has not in my opinion declined since 1888. The intrinsic values of town and suburban lots have increased within the last two years to the extent of \$2,000,000 at the least by new buildings, and improvements. Even where no improvements have been effected, as houses, property in Victoria can be purchased now under ordinary circumstances, at a less price than in 1889. House property in the villages has increased in value particularly at Yau-nai, and the only apparent depreciation is in suburban property which is occasioned solely from over-building. A great increase in rentals took place in 1888-89, owing to the great number of two-storied houses which were then pulled down for the purpose of building houses of three stories in their place. During the period of pulling down and re-building there was a dearth of houses, accommodation and many families left the colony, not being able to pay the higher rates demanded. I find that Chinese tradesmen formerly paying at the rate of 35 were compelled to pay \$50 a month for rent or leave and lose their business. Then came the over-building, upwards of 700 new houses being built to meet a demand for about 150 houses. The reduction of rents followed of course, but I do not find that rents in Victoria have decreased except in cases where they had been previously raised to an almost prohibitive extent, and there is no general appearance of reduction in capital values."

Now though this gentleman may possibly be somewhat over-optimistic in his views, I will have reason to believe them by no means far from the truth, and I know them to be correct as to the increased value of land in the villages. In any case they make clear that some of the causes of depreciation are entirely consistent with the absence of any general decline of prosperity.

To sum up the situation. While it must be admitted (1) that a large sum of money has been lent to the Colony in outside enterprises (2) that owing to the great building operations of recent years, the supply of houses is now considerably in excess of the demand, and (3) that the value of land has consequently fallen below what was not indistinctly intimated as the inflated value of 1889; yet on the other hand there are: (1) in the prosperous condition of all our leading enterprises and industries, (2) in the increased quantity of shipping at a time of unusual depression all over the world, (3) in the increase of the regular trade of the Colony as evidenced by the Imperial Customs returns—and considering all things (4) even in the small decrease, if there be any decrease, in the Bank deposit accounts—there are, in all these things indications of distinctly favourable promise for the future, and such, I venture to think, as give strong grounds for the belief that any depression that exists is merely temporary, and as on many former occasions in the history of Hongkong is only the precursor of still further increase of prosperity at no distant time. It may be judged, therefore, from what I have said that I do not at all share the gloomy anticipations of the honourable member. You no doubt have frequently observed that the organs of Chinese processions, in order to make a more imposing show of followers, will engage coolies whose labour-solled rags are barely hidden by coats thrown over them repleated in gold and colour. Now it seems to me that the honourable member has reversed this process, and has succeeded for the moment, but only I trust for the moment, in throwing a squall of gloom over the brilliant uniform in which Hongkong usually appears to the outside world, and which I shall still venture to believe is rightly belonging to her.

Before coming to the financial position of the colony, which the honourable member regards as so unsatisfactory, I think it right, however invidious may be the duty, of touching on another subject, akin to it, respecting which the honourable member's statements, if left without criticism, would do a serious injury to the credit

of the colony if, as is probable, it should shortly become necessary to raise a loan for Public Works.

After giving various reasons why the revenue might be likely to dwindle, and why presumably if confined to its present sources, it would be insufficient to meet existing charges on it, he proceeds to say that the taxes are already very high, and that though rates at 13 per cent. on the rental appear moderate, they are in reality heavy, inasmuch as rents are here about three times as high as in England; in fact he gives the impression to the outside world that the taxation of the Colony is already exceedingly burdensome and that the Government relations with the people of Hongkong are analogous to those of a landlord with rack-rented tenants. I venture to think that in this matter he has given a very wrong impression; and in fact, speaking from experience which is by no means a narrow one, I can state the confident belief that, with probably the single exception of the people of the Straits Settlements, if that be an exception, the people of Hongkong are less taxed, and probably far less taxed, than any other equally or more important community in the whole world having a pretension to civilised Government. There are indeed within my experience very few cases where an urban population has not to pay other heavy direct or indirect taxes, besides all the rates and taxes in an equal or greater degree which are paid by the people of Hongkong. To take the case of the Mother Country with which the honourable member has instituted a comparison in the matter of rents. There are few, if any, important commercial or manufacturing towns in England where the rates are less than 6½ in the £ or 33 per cent. on the rateable value, and this independently, where it has not been commuted, of some 9 in the £ inhabited house tax on the actual rental; and I was informed only the other day by a proprietor of houses in the city of Norwich that the rates there were 18½ in the £ (90 per cent.) on the rateable value, or some 80 per cent. on the actual rental. I do not forget that the honourable member alleges as to rents here being about three times as high as in England, but there is in other parts of his speech I am disposed to think that he has unwittingly used the language of hyperbole. No doubt there may be found places in England where houses are cheaper by 10s than here, but on the other hand I know well that there are other places where they are not only not cheaper but considerably dearer than here, and judging from what I have learned from a gentleman specially experienced in this matter, I apprehend that the case would certainly not be understood as the case would be estimated at double those in England for houses of equal size, in equally favourable situations as regards all other important centres of business. The mere rates of Hongkong independently of the inhabited house tax are therefore certainly not above, and probably below, the average rates of commercial towns in England, and considerably less than half those mentioned in the case of Norwich; and in this view it is scarcely necessary to point out that the rate-payer of Hongkong is in an incomparably more advantageous position than the English rate-payer. For the latter has to pay in addition to his local rates not only all other taxes that are levied here in an equal or greater degree, but he has also to pay income tax, property tax, (in addition to the inhabited house tax before mentioned) servants' tax, succession duties, sometimes the rent charge, besides heavy duties on his wine, spirits, tobacco and tea, from all of which the Hongkong rate-payer is entirely exempt. Indeed if he were fully understood here how heavy are the burdens on people in England in similar positions with those of the people of Hongkong, an unbroken display of opposition to the increased Military Contribution. For however unpleasant it may be to be asked to pay for what has hitherto been obtained free or for a comparatively small payment, I do not think there would be a grudge a contribution, which is after all but a small proportion of the cost of defence, if it were understood that our fellow-countrymen at home are far more heavily taxed than we are, and it were borne in mind that they are alone paying the debt which enabled Great Britain and her people all over the world to maintain their independence of foreign domination and bear moreover, not only the whole weight of the own defence but in a very large proportion the cost of Colonial defence also.

And now as regards the financial position. When I read the honourable member's speech I at first intended to supply in detail the results of an exhaustive examination of this subject; but this is now impossible consistently with the performance of work absolutely necessary to be done in the short time before my departure, and any regret I have on this score is much lessened by the consideration that for reasons above given a general discussion on the subject is only to an extremely limited extent pertinent to this subject of salaries, and that it had for other reasons been better postponed until the consideration of the Estimates for 1891. I am able, however, to say enough to render it clear that our financial position, though not wholly satisfactory, is not one which gives any more reason for alarm and despondency than the general condition of the Colony. I observe that the member states that according to the latest official returns, the deficit at the end of the year is a deficit in our finances of \$100,000. Presuming him correct, or as I think very possibly under the mark, I need scarcely say that such a statement without explanation gives a very wrong impression to the outside world; inasmuch as it leaves entirely out of sight not only the enormous sums which have in the last few years been expended out of revenue upon public works, elsewhere amply provided for by loan, but also omits to mention that \$250,000 of this purpose more important than \$250,000 of this purpose expenditure which is estimated to cause this deficit, is also for Extraordinary Public Works. Allowing for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue (as to which however I should mention that the great fall in assessed taxes anticipated by the honourable member I do not understand, in fact not likely to exceed 25 per cent.) allowing however, I say, for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue, and in the matter of expenditure for the increased Military Contribution, and for the payment under the new instructions during the current year of December salaries (amounting to some \$300,000) which in previous years have been paid in the following January, I am of opinion, as previously stated, that the deficit will at the end of this year be considerably more than the \$100,000 mentioned by the honourable member, if the full amount of \$250,000 were to be expended on Extraordinary Public Works. In judging from the rate at which the Department of Expenditure disposed to think that this estimate of expenditure would have been considerably beyond the mark in any circumstances. And in view of the fact that some new works, such as the Governor's Peak Residence (the prosecution of which I abandoned immediately after my return to the colony), will not be proceeded with for the present, and that there has been a temporary cessation of all public works in consequence of the recent telegram from the Secretary of State, I question whether at the end of the year there will be more than a very small deficit, even if I scarcely anticipate, the whole increase of salaries voted by the Council should be approved by the Secretary of State. As on the other hand there is likely to be little or none left

of our surplus balances, there would in all probability be a considerable deficit by the end of next year, if we continue to delay out of Revenue, the great drainage and water distribution works now in progress. This, however, is not likely, and there is every reason to believe that the Secretary of State, when he has been placed in a position to estimate the condition of affairs, will sanction a loan for public works such as in every one of the larger dependencies of the Crown would have been raised long ago. What should be the amount of such a loan I will not undertake to estimate. It, of course, depends on the extent of the public works which it may be determined to undertake. But I may mention that from statistics furnished to me, I estimate at \$500,000 the increase revenue from the New Central Market, from the new extended depots for cattle, sheep and swine, and from the public laundries, and at \$11,000 that from the New Water Distribution Works; making, together, \$61,000; so that from these sources alone there would be sufficient to pay interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund on a loan of \$1,220,000 at 4 per cent.

All things considered therefore, though I am by no means sure that some of the increases of salaries do not require re-consideration, I am completely satisfied that with a very moderate loan for public works and in the absence of circumstances impossible to foresee, there is every reason to believe that the ordinary revenue from its present sources will be sufficient to cover the salaries, as increased by the vote last October, as well as the increased Military Contribution.

As regards the future, though there may be expected some loss, in the next sale of the Opium Farm as compared with the large sum obtained for it under exceptional circumstances in 1889 (being some \$340,000 per annum higher than previously), there is good reason for anticipating advances in other directions. (1) If at this time of exceptional depression (from which the facts above referred to seem to indicate the beginning of improvement), the assessed taxes should prove to have fallen off as estimated only 25 per cent., I venture to think in view of the increasing general trade that this loss will be very quickly compensated by return to a normal condition, even if there should not be, as I confidently anticipate, a further upward progress in prosperity. (2) The revenue from what is in substance a clog, so far from showing any signs of diminution, tends steadily to increase. Owing to the exceptional demand for these coins, notwithstanding the institution of the Canton mint, I have been compelled to raise from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 the annual requisition upon the Crown Agents; and if the Mint should be able to supply us with the amount, I anticipate that the revenue from this source for this year will be at least \$500,000. (3) Rent from land must continue to increase in amount as further land is sold, and will even make a considerable advance this year. Indeed many of our revenue from this source will mount very rapidly, if, as I most sincerely hope, the policy should be maintained of permitting the commutation for increased rent of a considerable portion of the premiums. There will always be a strong temptation to abandon such a policy at a time like the present, when the current account is running low; but I am confident that it is the only sound policy, and that, if steadily maintained, it will in the course of not many years render it possible to considerably diminish the weight of taxation. And while referring to this matter of taxation, I think I will, on the eve of my departure, correct an impression which I may have given in a recent speech, as to the possibility that any substantial increase of taxation would, by driving trade away, cause this colony to meet the same fate as the West Indian Island of St. Thomas.

From further enquiry into this question (which I may mention only suggested itself to me, on spur of the moment), I have been led to believe that any apprehension on this score may be entirely dismissed. Without troubling you with all the reasons which have induced this more favourable view, I may mention the principal one as being that the large size of the steamers which are ordinarily required to bring goods from Europe to America, would render it impossible for them to conduct coasting trade on any large scale at a profit, and that consequently a distributing centre, such as Hongkong and for which no other port would afford anything like equal facilities, is an absolute necessity. And I am further told and believe that the present tonnage dues might be very considerably increased, and might be made something much more nearly approaching the average of other ports, and yet all, or nearly all, the vessels which now come here would still have to come here, inasmuch as their departure thence would cause them a loss considerably greater than the increased tax. Whether this view is completely correct, I cannot say; but I believe there is at all events sufficient truth in it to suggest the consideration whether additional revenue might not be raised, or whether, with the revenue remaining at the same amount, the incidence of taxation might not be more fairly distributed to the relief of the rate-payers. Attention was lately drawn by the Chamber of Commerce and by a question in Council of the Honourable Mr. Whitehead, to the supposed necessity of the Harbour Board, chiefly on account of the fact that in former years the funds raised for Light Dues had been more than sufficient for the maintenance of the lights, and because on the completion of the Gap Rock lighthouse this would probably occur again; and it is evident that the President of the Chamber of Commerce (from the point of view of what I may call the non-local shipowners) would like the cost of the maintenance of the Harbour expenses to be paid from the rates. But regarding the alleged small tax that would be necessary for the purpose, I think it to be well worth consideration whether it should not be imposed to the relief of other forms of taxation. If, on a principle which I understand is in force at Shanghai, vessels should be exempted from payment more than once in three months, I apprehend that the new tax would fall lightly or not at all on the local vessels which contribute proportionately to the larger benefits to the Colony, and would be felt as little or nothing by the people of this community. I throw out this as possibly a useful suggestion for the future, and I may add that any advantage which might otherwise accrue from a Harbour Board, would be increased if it were empowered and required to raise from ships all the funds which have to be expended for their benefit.

And now having touched on all the points of this question which appear to demand attention, I commend these remarks to the careful consideration of the Council and the community, with the sincere expression of my pleasure that I am able on the eve of my departure from the Colony to take, as I venture to think, on very sufficient grounds, so favourable a view of its condition and prospects.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. F. A. Cooper, Water Authority, informed a representative of the Telegraph this afternoon (29th inst.) that the water in the Tyam reservoir is not being diminished by the new system of supply adopted since yesterday—i.e., one hour's supply in all the principal districts throughout the city. It may therefore be taken for granted that no further reduction in the supply to the city will be necessary, and that we can hold out for an almost indefinite period as we are now going on. He contradicted the rumour that the Government had chartered several steamers for the purpose of supplying condensed water to a portion of the colony—such a step being unnecessary so long as the daily supply from Tyam does not diminish the reserve more appreciably.

FOOCHOW.

After all, the amount of treasure sent up country for the new tea leaf has already reached the handsome sum of \$1,600,000. We can safely say that there is only half of the usual number of buyers in the hills this season, therefore prices must undoubtedly be lower than those of last year.

As it is now necessary that all intending opium growers obtain a license from the Government, besides taxes on the land and the opium, many planters have given up the idea of planting poppy, as they fear, and justly too, that more trouble than profit will be the result of their labours in the new enterprise.

Reputedly owing to the bad state of the weather during the last few days, the price of rice has gone up some ten cents a picul. The authorities should look into the matter, and devise some rules and regulations for the sale of this great article of food of the whole Empire.

Many of these attempts to raise the price of this necessary article of food are the work of the retail dealers alone. The fire that broke out last Saturday night over the "long bridge" was not, as was supposed, of small significance; some two hundred houses and shops were destroyed. On Wednesday afternoon the second of the usual series of fires broke out at a cool-shop up above the bridge, on the Nantai side of the river. Luckily, however, it happened in the daytime and was therefore more promptly tackled than at night. The first fire-engine on the scene was brought over the bridge from the district magistrate's yard, another arrived from a foreign hong, and both did good work. About one hundred houses bounding the river, the salt godown, and the fire walls at Messrs. Hok Lee & Co.'s and Ningpo Chai & Co.'s house were burnt. The "houses" were taken out of the "long bridge" with great alacrity, but unfortunately, in the crowded labyrinth of houses, destroyed, four women and three men lost their lives. The Prefect, Magistrate, and their hook and ladder companies, did good service in arresting the spread of the fire, and also in keeping the crowd of ruffians that usually assemble at fires, in order.

Respecting the latter fire an eyewitness writes:—"I noticed one fact which may possibly have been overlooked or not properly recognised by others. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s fire engine arrived on the scene very promptly after the commencement of the fire, and although the approach to the scene was densely crowded with Chinese, this engine, in a very short space of time, was safely piloted to an advantageous position for rendering help in extinguishing the fire. This was due to the energy of Mr. Brand. He was protecting the interests of the Hongkong Fire Insurance and certainly deserves sincere thanks from that Company. A salary European forcing his way through the crowd of ruffians and cut-throats, which is always present at a fire in Foochow, is not in an enviable position, nor is the risk to his life small."—*Enan.*

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

Ordered by H.E. the Governor, three different kinds of powder, brown prismatic, black prismatic and pebble powder, were tried on the 1st and 2nd inst. in one of the 6-inch guns on the Fort, by the military instructor, Lieut. Hecht. He has no instruments here to measure the muzzle velocity, etc., and could only make a trial by firing at targets at measured distances, and by charges made in proper weights, according to Armstrong range-tables. The result was very satisfactory as regards the black prismatic and the pebble powder; the brown prismatic appeared to be less powerful in its effects, as the shells fell short of the target by the right elevation of the gun; in future the charges of this kind of powder will be increased. I was cordially invited to be present at this trial, and have great pleasure in stating that the whole battery, including the men and buildings, is kept in a perfect state, and the men are well drilled. Everything looked clean and in good order. The last new industry here is gold-washing. When the railway towards this end was ballasted, some gold dust was found amongst the sand near the so-called Kelung River, which here runs swiftly round the hills and over stony rapids. Now an old gold washer from California, has the thing in hand; I saw quite a number of men working in the bed of the river when last I passed it, and the first gold has actually been exported. The locomotive runs daily through from Kelung Wharf to Tawutia, but the end station for passenger traffic is on this side the tunnel, about 30 minutes walk from the wharf. One week place on the embankment has yet to be strengthened properly, before the passenger carriages are allowed to run down to the wharf. To the south of Tawutia a new station was just to have been opened when a very heavy rain caused a landslide about 4 miles south of Peaks, where there is a very deep cutting. As soon as this is repaired the line will be opened a good distance to the south. From Kelung to Tawutia cargo has been shipped already.

The land to the south of Tawutia is beautifully cultivated and rich in produce. When I passed it last week I saw large fields of indigo, sugar and tea, besides the large rice fields. Towards a town called Tokolan, by the river which runs past Tawutia, I saw the best cultivated tea gardens that I ever came across in my life; miles upon miles of square, flat fields of tea, with hedges of brushwood for shelter, all kept perfectly clean by being ploughed between the rows, and sowed and weeded round the plants. It is a plateau some 2,300 feet above the level of the sea and through it the river makes its way, shooting down over rapids and through magnificent scenery towards Tawutia, which makes it quite interesting to go down in a rapid boat.

Last Sunday (5th) we were astonished to hear that the locomotive driver had struck and killed a man running in the forenoon. It seems that the Chinese management is divided into two parts; one for the working of the railway and one for repairing and maintaining locomotives and rolling-stock. A locomotive had just been in for overhaul and the Director for this branch wanted to try it, the other manager gave orders that he would only run a short distance and on no account pass the first station, but instead of that he got a carriage attached and went on this single track line for a small pleasure excursion. This was last Saturday the 4th inst. In the meanwhile the second train came back from

Kelung in charge of Mr. W. Johnson; he was just through one of the cuttings west of Sulingka (midway between Kelung and Tawutia), and could justly see some distance ahead when to his horror he saw a locomotive with a carriage coming right against him at a good speed. All ended well, as it was in such a place that they could see one another a good distance off, but when he came home a complaint was made to Mr. Brown, the European locomotive superintendent. As it appears that the Chinese Director for repairs would take no order from the railway manager, all the locomotive drivers struck and refused to run on the line until this matter was settled. The European manager, Mr. Matheson, then had an interview with the Governor, and although H.E. is sick at present, such is the strength of his will that everything was settled the same day, and such rules were given as thoroughly to stop such an occurrence in future.

Yesterday Lieut. Hecht tried all the guns on the new battery on Palm Island. Everything went off satisfactorily, and without mishap.—*Mercury.*

Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 106 per cent. premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, 228½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue, 170½ per cent. premium, sellers.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per share, buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company—\$63 per share, buyers.
North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$115 per share, sellers.
Yongtong Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.
Tin Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$315 per share, sellers.
China Fire Insurance Company—\$281 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$100 per cent. premium, buyers.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$334 per share, sellers.
China and Manila Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—\$131 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Hotel Company—\$120 per share, buyers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$50.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—30 per cent. discount, sellers.
Nippon Steamship Company—\$48 per share, sellers.
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$191 per share, sellers.
Jusun Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$93 per share, sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—\$90 per share, buyers.
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share, sellers.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$21 per share, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—24 per cent. premium, sellers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent. premium, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent. premium.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$122 per share, ex div., sales and buyers.
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.
Panjion and Sunghie Dua Samantan Mining Co.—\$2 per share, sellers.
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—No cents per share, buyers.
Imperial Mining Co., Limited—\$12 per share, buyers.
The Balmora Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$70 per share, buyers.
Toquela Coal Mining Co.—\$430 per share, buyers.
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.
The East Asiatic Company, Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$48 per share, ex div., buyers.
The Sengat Royal Planning Co., Limited—\$131 per share, buyers.
Cricketballing Co., Limited—\$35 per share, nominal.
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
The Anson Arms, Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$13 per share, sellers.
The China-Borneo Co., Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$14 per share, sellers.
The Green Island Cement Co.—\$17 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$87 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6 per share, nominal.
Glen Forewick & Co., Limited—\$15 per share, nominal.
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$30 per share, sellers.
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$11 per share, sellers.
The Table Mountain Co., Limited—\$35 per share, sellers.
The Lammie Planting Co., Limited—\$7 per share, buyers.
The Teles Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.
The Selams Tin Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
The Shumson Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$15 per share, buyers.
Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—\$1 per share, sellers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—\$1 per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Marine, Limited—nominal.
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ltd.—37½ per cent. div., sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ltd. Founders' Shares—\$200 per share, sellers.

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